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EVERY
MOUNTAIN**
Really rural
tests for
rugged
machines
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PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

**SECOND
NORMAN
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**CENTRE
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Rex Bellamy
recalls days
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Weekend Times
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**LABOUR
AND LOVES
LOST**
Sir Peter Hall
on why work
is preferred
to play
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Page 4

Referendum delights Delors

Irish 'yes' vote hailed as boost to Maastricht

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent, and our foreign staff

THE Maastricht treaty on European union was boosted yesterday by an overwhelming endorsement from the people of Ireland.

European Community leaders who have committed themselves to pursuing the ratification of the treaty were relieved last night at the restoration of some of the momentum lost after the Danish "no" vote two weeks ago.

John Major warned Conservative rebels to toe the line, reaffirming that there would be no retreat from Maastricht. "We would lose our influence to determine events. Our partners in Europe

ANC blames de Klerk

The African National Congress delivered one of its fiercest attacks so far on President de Klerk and the South African government in the wake of the Boipatong massacre. The ANC said it put the blame for the deaths squarely on the president's shoulders.

Riot police surrounded the KwaMadala hotel from where the attack was launched.

The concern is that the ANC's campaign will lead to a new round of violence.

Doctors opt for deputies

European police prepare to vote on whether to opt out of a plan to provide round-the-clock cover for the present police.

A Times survey has found that many have opted out already. Fifty-seven out of 100 general practices contacted said that they would opt out.

Exodus debate

A lively academic argument about to erupt over a claim in a leading Egyptian newspaper that the site where Moses led the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt has been finally identified on the east side of the Suez Canal.

Rain stops play

Royal Ascot took a buffering as the south east was hit by heavy rain.

The first day of the festival was also a victim of the weather, with no play after lunch.

Godfree dies

Wimbledon singles champion and former Olympic gold medalist, has died aged 90.

He had been ill for three days before the start of the tournament.

Conditions

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baths, 18
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On his bike: Ian Maxwell, who faces charges over his father's companies, left home for work yesterday on an L-plated scooter. Pennies watched, page 2

Waldegrave vets charter spending

By Nicholas Wood

CITIZEN'S charter schemes are to be specially vetted in this year's public spending round, which is forecast to be the toughest in over a decade.

John Major has ordered the Treasury to ensure that William Waldegrave, the charter minister, examines all bids for extra money that are founded on charter commitments.

Charter seminar, page 10

Getty museum boosts London art dealers

By John Vincent

TWO Old Masters, one of which fetched just £170 five years ago, have been sold to the Getty museum in California for £14 million.

The sales of *Portrait of Pope Clement VII* by Sebastiano del Piombo and *Venus and Adonis* by Titian have provided a welcome boost for London's art dealers during the recession as well as causing raised eyebrows at the American museum's apparent extravagance.

Art surprise, page 16

Major tells Tory rebels not to gazump treaty

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major issued a sharp warning last night to Conservative party rebels that there would be no retreat from Maastricht after Ireland voted resoundingly for the treaty, giving the European Community a breathing space to rescue its deal on economic and political union.

Mr Major said that if Britain broke its word it would not be trusted again. "We would lose our influence to determine events. Our partners in Europe would see Britain as political

gazumpers who change their minds and their price after making an agreement. It is not the way this British government will behave."

His remarks, delivered at his Huntingdon constituency, reflected the prime minister's determination both to use Britain's forthcoming presidency of the EC to try to save the treaty, and to prevent the British government and parliament doing anything that could mean Britain being blamed if the agreement was not implemented.

Continued on page 18, col 8

Professor spells out failure of Oxford English

By Matthew D'Ancona, Education Reporter

MOST Oxford finalists cannot write decent English, spell badly and make gross grammatical mistakes, a distinguished professor of philosophy at the university has claimed.

In a gravely pessimistic article in *The Tablet* this week, Michael Dummett, Wykeham Professor of Logic, criticises academic standards at the university from which he graduated with first-class honours in 1950. Only the most able students can cope, he says, "while the rest have been forced to skimp, absorbing just enough to pass their finals".

He writes: "What am I to do as a philosophy examiner in finals when presented with a mass of scribbles by would-be graduates who cannot write decent English? It seems lamentable that anyone should go into the world as a graduate of Oxford University, or any other

university, without that level of literacy which we used to take for granted as belonging to any 'educated person'."

Professor Dummett argues that undergraduates now require a preliminary year of general studies to prepare them for the rigours of a specialist degree. He fears that the "illiterate arrows" of donnish disquisition will not save the reputation of the British degree, as polytechnics become universities, student numbers increase and funding councils encroach on academic life.

The alleged decline of standards at Oxford has exercised its greatest minds since Gibbon declared his months at Magdalen to be the most unprofitable of his life, and Professor Dummett's colleagues took his Cassandra-like claims in their stride yesterday.

"People have been saying that spelling is worse since the late nineteenth century," Jim Reed, professor of German at Queen's College, said. "Gener-

alisations of this kind are easy to make and hard to substantiate. I'm not saying everything in the garden is rosy, but I haven't seen a decline since I came here in 1960."

Vernon Bogdanor, a reader in government and fellow of Brasenose College, said that undergraduates now worked far harder than their predecessors 40 years ago, but that social trends had conspired against the maintenance of standards. "It's a reflection of what's going on in society and schools. The new GCSE and the destruction of the grammar schools, for example, have made it harder for the small minority of sixth formers who are Oxbridge-bound to get the necessary cultural background."

The students seem untroubled. Tal Michael, president of the student union, said that other scholars apparently shared Professor Dummett's alarm. "It seems to be something which is said periodically."

UN chief asks for army to police world

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN A move that could turn the United Nations into the global policeman of the new world order, Boutros Boutros Ghali, its secretary-general, is recommending the creation of a UN army made up of national contingents on permanent standby.

Declaring that the end of the Cold war has given the UN a second chance, he says member nations should implement the original plan of the organisation's founders to establish a permanent UN force. The force's mission would be to respond to outright aggression, imminent or actual. As a first step, he calls for the creation of separate, heavily armed UN peace enforcement units to act as a rapid deployment force to restore and maintain ceasefires.

Dr Boutros Ghali's recommendations appear in a 52-page report on revamping the UN which was requested by world leaders at the first security council summit last January. In his report he suggests that his proposed reforms should be implemented by the time of the organisation's fiftieth anniversary in 1995.

"The organisation must never again be crippled as it was in the era that has now passed," he says.

His proposals go beyond what some Western govern-

ments, notably the Bush administration, appear ready to accept. John Bolton, an American Assistant Secretary of State, wrote to Dr Boutros Ghali in April saying that Washington had "serious reservations" about the creation of a UN army.

Neither the 12 European Community nations nor the Nordic countries, which already earmark troops for UN peacekeeping duty, mentioned the creation of such a force when they submitted their ideas for UN reform in April. Only France has publicly offered to place troops on standby for UN peace enforcement, although Russia has continued the former Soviet Union's support for the concept.

Dr Boutros Ghali insists in his report that the option of UN military action "is essential to the credibility of the United Nations as a guarantor of international security" and says it is time for the organisation's members to take "the hard decisions demanded by this time of opportunity."

He adds: "The ready availability of armed forces on call could serve, in itself, as a means of deterring breaches of the peace..."

Military role, page 11

Call to end tax relief

THE chief executive of the Nationwide building society has called for an end to tax relief on mortgages.

Tim Melville-Ross, who is also chairman of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said the £6 billion a year potential saving could be used to help low-paid borrowers.

Mr Melville-Ross, speaking at the Institute of Housing

conference in Harrogate, said housing policy needed to be reformed and said the obsession with home ownership damaged the economy.

"We should at least ask whether it is right for young people to take on home ownership, with its effect on limiting labour mobility," he said.

Call to scrap relief, page 19

"There's never been a better time to trade up to the LEICA M6"

MIKE MALONEY Top Photo Journalist

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Mortgage aid for jobless soars to over £1 billion

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE BILL for helping out the unemployed with their mortgage costs has increased by 75 per cent over the past year to almost a billion pounds.

The figures, confirmed yesterday despite some government sleight of hand, revealed that the bill increased from £554 million in 1990 to an estimated £949 million last year. The number of people receiving such help rose in 1991 by 100,000.

The huge increase in mortgage costs, which will have risen still further this year as unemployment has continued to climb, will increase pressure on an already tight government spending round, forcing further cutbacks in other public expenditure. The piecemeal release of the figures reveals the degree of ministerial embarrassment.

People on income support, a means-tested benefit for the unemployed, qualify for help in keeping up the interest payments on their mortgages. They get 50 per cent of the cost for their first 16 weeks without a job and up to 100 per cent thereafter.

In a written reply to a question from Nick Raynsford, the Greenwich MP and Labour's housing expert, the Department of Social Security confirmed that the department's estimates for mortgage assistance costs were £286 million in 1988, £353

million in 1989 and £554 million in 1990. But the reply said that the 1991 estimate would appear "in the 1991 annual statistical enquiry, which will be published on June 19". The department confirmed yesterday that the 1991 estimate was £949 million, a 71 per cent increase.

In another reply to Mr Raynsford, the DSS confirmed that the numbers receiving help with their mortgages rose from 300,000 in 1988 to 310,000 in 1990. The 1991 figure confirmed yesterday was 411,000, an increase of nearly a quarter.

Mr Raynsford said yesterday: "This is a terrible indictment of the government's economic policy. Almost £1 billion a year is now required to help those at risk of losing their homes because of unemployment."

The latest departmental estimates, with a larger proportional increase in the costs than in the number being helped, suggest there is an increasing problem in London and the South-East, where mortgages are higher. They also reflect a growth in the number of long-term unemployed.

A DSS spokesman said yesterday that the average weekly mortgage assistance payment had risen from £34 in 1990 to £46 in 1991.

Call to scrap relief, page 19

Students dance to save 'scholar tree'

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

MORE than 100 undergraduates and dons linked hands to dance around an historic Japanese pagoda tree at Cambridge University in a strange and previously unknown conservation ritual. They were protesting at a secretive plan by the university's estate management department to fell the lush and rare 40ft tree to make way for a temporary workers' hut.

The pagoda (*Sophora japonica*) was planted in 1957 by Sir Vincent Wigglesworth, president of the Cambridge Natural History Society, to commemorate the centenary of the world's oldest conservation society. Its long leafy boughs have shaded generations of students in the central courtyard opposite the botany department off Downing Street in the city centre.

The estate management department has received planning permission from the city council to build the MacDonald Institute of Archaeology in the courtyard, which will require the felling of a large lime tree in the southeast corner. Now the university has applied for permission to cut down the pagoda tree to make room for the hut. The estate management department claims in its application that the tree is suffering terminally from verticillium fungus and that it has only 16 years left of a normal lifespan of 50 years.

But it had reckoned without the intervention of the redoubtable Max Walters, a former director of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, ex-president of the Natural History Society and one of the country's leading botanists. Dr Walters, who received leaked documents proposing the destruction of the pagoda, said yesterday that the famous specimen planted in 1762 and that the maturity of a pagoda is marked by flowering that may take more than 50 years to occur after planting.

"The tree in the courtyard has yet to flower and the fungus problems it has can be solved with water, fertiliser and a little trimming back," he said.

"This is all a red herring to get rid of the tree. There is more to this than meets the eye. There is no evidence that there is anything seriously wrong with it."

The tree, also known as the Scholar Tree, appeared in fine fettle yesterday as academics performed their dance and later staged a sit-down in a demonstration against its destruction.

Tom Wakeford, 21, a second-year natural science undergraduate, said: "It is ironic that the university proposes to fell this beautiful tree in the courtyard of a department studying global warming. This is an act of vandalism."

Simon Conway-Morris, FRGS, said: "The application for destruction is linked to the health of the tree. But the real reason appears to be one of transient convenience when the building of the new institute starts. That tree might have more than a century of life left in it."

Nigel Sizer, 25, secretary of the botany section of the Cambridge Natural History Society and a specialist in the conservation of tropical rain forest, said: "I have spent years in my office and in Brazil trying very hard to sort



Root of the problem: a protester beneath the 40ft pagoda tree yesterday

out new ways of promoting the conservation of Amazonian tropical forests and it seems that we can't even save a single specimen of a very special tree growing outside our window here in Cambridge from the ravages of corporate expansion."

David Todd-Jones, director of the university's estate management department, said that the professional scientific advice he had received was that the tree was unhealthy, but he agreed to reconsider its fate, depending on what Dr Walters told him.

George Bernard Shaw was obviously keen to leave a legacy of letters behind in his honour. In his will published in 1950 he left a considerable portion of his estate for the purpose of replacing the standard English alphabet of 26 letters with a more efficient one of at least 40 letters. This wish has yet to be fulfilled.

Letters, page 15
\$1bn self-off, page 19

Maxwell will fascinate experts

Robert Maxwell's flamboyant reputation lives on in his will. Ray Clancy reports on the fascinated reaction to its contents

pense and risk involved. It is the first time I have come across such a clause and it is indeed fascinating," said Richard Bark-Jones, a Law Society expert.

It is also unlikely, however, that anyone named in the will, including Mr Maxwell's former secretary Jean Baddeley who has been left £100,000, will actually receive a penny. Official receiver Peter Phillips said that beneficiaries will go to the bottom of the queue after creditors. Who gets what will be decided by the courts.

Miss Baddeley is the only non-relative to be named as a beneficiary in the will. She was his personal assistant for more than 30 years and under the terms of the will is guaranteed a job in connection with the management of Maxwell's estate "upon the most generous terms of compensation that may be deemed appropriate". She has always been fierce-

ly loyal to her former employer. "He borrowed it but he liked he would have put the milk back in the bottle," she said of his dealing with the pension fund.

There were rumours that Miss Baddeley, marketing development director at the Daily Mirror, would be left up to £10 million in the will but she dismissed them as rubbish. "I do not expect any payment. I have had the privilege of working for a genius and I have enjoyed every minute of it," she told reporters.

Some of the relatives named in the will are not well known in the public eye. Sylvia Rosen, his sister who is left £150,000, and a nephew and niece Helene and Michael Atkin, have kept low profiles as scandal after scandal has erupted.

Wills in Britain are governed by the Wills Act 1837 which sets out guidelines for things that should be includ-

ed in an estate but does not mention anything that is unacceptable. "In general terms clauses in a will are measured by the courts against what is acceptable under current public policy," said Mr Bark-Jones.

A clause that encouraged someone to commit a crime or an immoral act would be deemed unacceptable but a wealth of silly and unusual things cannot be excluded such as the man who left money for a cat home to be built including dormitories, well stocked rat holes and a concert hall for the feline inhabitants to listen to accordion music for an hour a day.

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Letters, page 15
\$1bn self-off, page 19

Families watch the pennies

BY PETER VICTOR

THE Maxwell household returned to situation normal yesterday. As normal as it could be, that is, considering Kevin Maxwell faced fraud charges relating to more than £130 million. Normal life includes watching the family finances and querying the milkman's £21.24 bill.

On presenting his bill to Pandora Maxwell, Brian Shannon, a Dairy Crest employee, was asked: "How much is that?" He returned to his float and rechecked his books before returning and confirming that £21.24 was due for the past four weeks. Mrs Maxwell paid up and then took inside three gold topped pins. The Maxwell milkman continued on his round and would only say: "People around here have more money than sense."

Afterwards Mrs Maxwell told reporters: "I was

charged the correct amount. I was not sure if they had received my last cheque and I wanted to make sure it was all right."

The first signs of life at the Maxwell's Chelsea house were the morning newspapers being pulled through the front door at 7.40am. Half an hour later Mrs Maxwell, feeling better disposed towards the press pack outside than she had on Thursday, leaned out her third floor bedroom window and asked: "Has something happened that I don't know about?" Later, Kevin Maxwell, smartly dressed in a grey suit, drove three of their four children — to school.

Ian Maxwell seemed to shrug off the worries of his future trial in connection with an alleged £35 million fraud as he left his home in Victoria, central London, at

Sam with a wave for waiting journalists. Wearing a dark pin striped suit, he smiled and said good morning to the assembled media. With due concern for expenditure, he then rode off on a scooter.

Later, his wife Laura, looking calm and relaxed, left their £450,000 home just before noon to visit the news-agent and chemist. She steadfastly refused to comment on her husband's arrest.

The brothers met for an inexpensive pasta lunch at an Italian restaurant in Covent Garden. Kevin Maxwell asked for a quiet table "far from the maddening crowd" and they sat talking and eating for a quarter of an hour before settling their £28.80 bill in cash. Watching the pennies, they left no tip.

Photograph, page 1

Minister rejects bail enquiry call

The government yesterday rejected a call for an official enquiry into bail procedures after a woman was raped and strangled by a man awaiting trial. Andrew Haganis, 26, who had an 11-year history of sex offences, was sentenced to life imprisonment by Bristol Crown Court last week after being convicted of murdering and raping Mrs Anna McGurk, aged 23. A fortnight earlier Cheltenham magistrates had released him on bail charged with the knife-point rape of a 20-year-old woman.

After the case, John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry SW, called on the Home Office to institute a full departmental enquiry into serious crimes committed by people on bail. In a Commons written reply to him yesterday, Michael Jack, Home Office Minister, said: "Although I fully understand and share the concern that has been widely expressed about the implications of this case, I have no plans to institute any formal enquiry."

Lessons learnt from such cases were always taken into account in developing policy, Mr Jack said. "Steps have already been taken and others are in train to reduce the risk of such incidents occurring again."

Jackson tour hitch

Michael Jackson's tour of Britain and Europe was under threat yesterday as the aircraft bringing tons of equipment for the rock singer's concerts was banned from British airspace. The Department of Transport has refused to give a safety licence to the Russian Antonov 124 aircraft, on the advice of the Civil Aviation Authority. The London-based Edwin Shirley Trucking company had been planning to use more than fifty lorries to move concert equipment from Stansted airport to Wembley for concerts on July 30, 31, August 1 and 22. The Antonov is licensed under military safety standards, but not under the more stringent domestic safety standards. It has been used to fly beef to starving Russians.

MP at abuse enquiry

Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, gave evidence yesterday at the enquiry into the running of children's homes in Leicestershire. The hearing was set up after Frank Beck was jailed for life for abusing children at the three county homes he ran. Its aim is to find out how Beck's 13-year reign of abuse, as allowed to continue. At his trial Beck, 50, claimed that Mr Janner had had a relationship with a former boy in care. Mr Janner, 63, who has vigorously denied the claims, submitted a written statement to the enquiry which is chaired by Mr Andrew Kirkwood, QC. Mr Kirkwood asked the MP to answer questions in person at the enquiry being held at Cleland School, Leicester. Mr Janner said afterwards that he had not been asked about Beck's allegations.

PC inquest opened

An inquest was opened and adjourned into the death of Special Constable Glenn Goodman, 37, who was shot with Constable Sandy Kelly, 32, after stopping a car near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, on June 7. PC Goodman, of Sherburn in Elmet, near Tadcaster, died later at St James's Hospital, Leeds. Philip Gill, Leeds coroner, said a post-mortem examination showed that PC Goodman had died of bleeding and shock, due to gunshot wounds to the abdomen. He released the body for burial and adjourned the hearing until the outcome of criminal proceedings against Paul Patrick McGee, 42, and Michael O'Brien, both charged with PC Goodman's murder and the attempted murder of PC Kelly, who is still in hospital. A police funeral for PC Goodman will be held in Selby on Wednesday.

Public school expels 10

A public school has expelled ten boys after pupils went on the rampage in an end-of-exams drinking binge. Three boys were also suspended from the £9,500-a-year Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks, West Sussex, after the incident. Headmaster Simon Watson said he had no choice but to call in police after a common room bar was broken into and drink worth £700 stolen. Boys also broke into another pupil's study on the same night and beat him up. "There can be no excuse and no justification for the behaviour that we have experienced. It is completely out of character and has rocked a happy school to its roots," Mr Watson said in a letter to parents. All but one of the expelled boys was within days of leaving the school after taking A-levels. One pupil is expected to face charges.

Statue protest charges

Four men appeared in court yesterday charged with offences relating to the protest at the unveiling of the statue of Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, head of Bomber Command in the second world war. Stuart Matheson, 21, of Bow, east London, Steven Hodson, 21, a student of Camden, north London, and Nicholas Underwood, 22, of Hackney, east London, were remanded on bail by magistrates at Bow Street, central London, until July 31. They were charged with going equipped to cause criminal damage at the ceremony in Strand, central London, on May 31. Mark Aldhurst, 26, of Hackney, pleaded not guilty to causing criminal damage and was remanded on bail until July 9. Four others charged in relation to the protest have already been remanded until July 14.

Halford 'accused of affair'

ALISON Halford, the suspended assistant chief constable, said yesterday that a superior once accused her of having an affair with a psychologist who ran up a consultancy bill of more than £20,000 with the police.

During an angry exchange at the Manchester industrial tribunal, Ms Halford denied failing to inform superiors of the extent of payments to psychologist Eric Shepherd. She said that former Merseyside Chief Constable Sir Kenneth Oxford once accused her of having an affair with Dr Shepherd who was with Dr Shepherd who was trained officers in human awareness skills.

John Hand QC, for the present chief constable James Sharples, accused her of inventing Sir Kenneth's alleged remarks. The hearing continues on Monday.

CORRECTION

The picture in Thursday's paper accompanying our report on the Bar Council was not of Gareth Williams, QC, the Bar's chairman. It was, in fact, of Lord Williams of Elvel.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Diana: her true story

With no affection or support from her husband, the princess finds solace in hard work. But nobody has thanked her for it. Pointing to



a huge badge on her jacket, she one day told photographers: "I've awarded it to myself for services to my country because no-one else will..."

Don't miss part 3 of the most important royal story, only in The Sunday Times, tomorrow

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£500+	£25
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NEWS IN BRIEF

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quity call

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aimed that Mr Jenner had had a
former boy in care. Mr Jenner, 63, re-
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quity which is chaired by Mr Andrew
Kirkwood asked the MP to answer
at the enquiry being held at Gillingham
Jenner said afterwards that he had
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Diana:
her true
story

With no affection
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Ex-Lotus head jailed for £9m De Lorean fraud

By LIN JENKINS

THE former head of the Lotus car company was jailed for three years yesterday and fined £2.25 million for conspiring to defraud the De Lorean sports car company of more than £9 million.

Lord Justice Murray, at Belfast Crown Court, said that Fred Bushell was the brains behind a "bare-faced, outrageous and massive fraud" entered into with John De Lorean and the late Colin Chapman. Had Mr De Lorean been in court, he would have been given a ten-year prison term, the judge said.

The judge paid tribute to the police and others involved in bringing to light "the evil conspiracy known as the De Lorean affair". Bushell, 64, of Dykebeck, Norfolk, pleaded guilty last April to conspiring with Mr De Lorean, Mr Chapman and others to defraud the De Lorean motor company of up to US\$17.65 million (about £9.5 million) over four years to the end of 1982. Sentencing had been postponed to allow Bushell, who had a triple bypass heart operation last year, to put his affairs in order.

The judge ordered that £302,010 frozen in a Swiss bank account, and now part of the fine, be the subject of a



Bushell: ordered to pay £2.25 million fine

ITC 'given BSkyB secrets'

A SENIOR executive at the satellite television company British Sky Broadcasting was dismissed after being caught leaking secrets to a rival company in the hope of getting a better job, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Ellis Griffiths, 56, executive director of operations and engineering, who earned £78,000 a year, was engaged in activity which could have made satellite dishes redundant, said Andrew Hillyer, counsel for BSkyB.

Mr Hillyer said that Mr Griffiths had passed company secrets to the Independent Television Commission, a European commission official and six franchise bidders.

Management installed a listening device in Mr Griffiths' telephone at the company's headquarters in Osterley, west London. They played back tapes of his conversations, which showed that he was disclosing secret information. He said Mr Griffiths accepted the evidence of the tapes but claimed the evidence was unlawful.

Mr Griffiths, who joined British Satellite Broadcasting in 1988, two years before the company merged with Sky, and lives in Surrey, is claiming at the hearing that he was unfairly dismissed.

Mr Hillyer told the tribunal that Sam Chisholm, the managing director, "had no choice but to dismiss Mr Griffiths on May 29, last year... He had made up his mind to dismiss before he met him to discuss the matter." Mr Hillyer conceded that Mr Griffiths was not given a chance to explain, but that the result would have been the same.

The hearing continues today.

By-pass protest outlawed

A SCHEME under which more than a thousand environmentalists each bought a square-metre plot of a disused railway line in an attempt to block construction of an A11 by-pass in Norfolk was outlawed by the High Court yesterday.

A judge ruled that the scheme, masterminded by Norfolk Friends of the Earth, was a strategic device to frustrate the transport department's plan to acquire land through compulsory purchase orders for the Wymondham by-pass. It did not deserve the support of the courts.

Mr Justice McCullough struck out part of a court challenge to compulsory purchase orders made against the plot owners. He said their argument based on ownership of the square-metre plots was frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of the court process.

He said, however, that they could challenge the road plan on the limited grounds that the government disregarded evidence that, at a public enquiry in May 1990, the mayor of Wymondham, Philip Richardson, misrepresented the views of the town council by saying that its members supported the transport department's preferred route for the by-pass.

The judge said the second ground of challenge was not an abuse of the legal process, as claimed the transport department, and Friends of the Earth and their supporters were entitled to pursue it in the High Court in judicial review proceedings.

Both sides in the case are planning to appeal.



Almighty uproar: American tele-evangelist Morris Cerullo has already drawn flack with the advertising for his London healing session

The mysterious ways of Morris Cerullo

By JOE JOSEPH

GOD moves in mysterious ways, otherwise he would not have chosen a short, plumpish American with dyed black hair and a squeaky voice to do his work on earth.

Morris Cerullo, who starts a week of evangelical preaching and miracle healing at London's Earls Court arena tomorrow, has already drawn flack for the controversial advertising campaign. Posters showing discarded wheelchairs and white sticks seem to promise

miracles for the sick and disabled.

But he claims no credit. "Morris doesn't cure anybody," says Mr Cerullo, aged 60, referring to himself in the third person, as if he were next door. "Morris Cerullo is not a faith healer. If anybody is healed it is because God healed them. How many do I hope to see healed by God's power? Hundreds, hundreds."

Mr Cerullo, who is happy to be compared to Billy Graham and Oral Roberts but not with the disgraced Jim Bakker or Jimmy Swaggart,

runs Morris Cerullo World Evangelism. It has an annual budget of £6.45 million (culled through "love gifts" from followers) and its own television station called the Inspirational Network, though Mr Cerullo claims a salary of £26,700 a year.

From September his San Diego, California, organisation, which claims the support of 150 churches in Britain, will start beaming his message to Britain and the rest of Europe on the Astra satellite, making him Britain's first tele-evangelist. Expect to see Christian

children's programmes, pop, and quiz shows.

"God is relevant at the point of all human need," Mr Cerullo told a news conference yesterday, making the Almighty sound like a sort of spiritual Visa card. "If you are spiritually blind, come to Earls Court and you will see. God is relevant. Can he heal the sick? Yes he can. Does he heal the sick? Yes he does."

But God has to have a conduit on earth. Mr Cerullo was chosen when he was 14 years old and living in the orthodox Jewish orphanage

that raised him. "Morris is just one, not the, just one of God's messengers," he says.

Mr Cerullo's live shows are famous for dramatic fainting fits and instant cures, which his followers call miracles and his detractors call dubious. "We don't make any guarantees," he tells those planning to attend his Earls Court shows. "But we do guarantee that we will bring them the message. The message is the message of hope. Not everybody gets healed. But you have to remember, Morris is not God."

Moby musical is beached

By PETER VICTOR

ANOTHER London West End musical is going through its death throes. Cameron Mackintosh, producer of *Moby Dick*, based loosely on Melville's novel, has told its cast that he can no longer afford to keep the show running.

Peter Roper, the company's manager, said yesterday, however, that any closure had not been announced and that the show was booking through to next January. "The notice has not gone up. I manage the show on behalf of Cameron Mackintosh so I wait for them to tell me what to do," he said.

A Cameron Mackintosh employee said the producer had told the cast only that the show might have to close. "It hadn't been decided formally that the show will close in two weeks or whatever." A call to

the theatre's box office last night established that tickets for the show were "generally available at all prices". Block bookings of up to 100 could be accommodated at relatively short notice.

A post mortem examination will no doubt disclose that savage wounds inflicted by the critics contributed significantly to the poor beast's death. The £1.2 million musical, a combination of St Trinian's and suspender-belt titillation and musical hoopla, was the only all new musical to open this year. The critics felt they deserved better. Benedict Nightingale, of *The Times*, said it was "like being sucked into somebody's very silly, very private joke". Michael Billington of *The Guardian* described it as "garbage". "Deliberately amateurish... shambling... bizarre," said the *Daily Express*. The show has also been plagued by bad luck. The complicated mechanical props and scenery have not always worked. Once the show had to be stopped when actors hurt themselves.

Mr Mackintosh, who until recently seemed to have the Midas touch, was not available for comment yesterday. *Les Misérables*, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Five Guys Named Moe* were big hits. This year he had eight shows in 44 productions in a dozen languages. Even in a recession Mr Mackintosh continued to do well by reproducing his hit shows on Broadway. It was recently disclosed that Mr Mackintosh had been buying unsold seats for *Miss Saigon* on Broadway to make the show appear a success.

Murder charge man freed after new trial

A MAN accused of murdering his 14-year-old stepdaughter was freed yesterday after a second jury failed to agree on a verdict.

Joseph Nelson-Wilson, 34, a hospital porter, heard the jury foreman at the Central Criminal Court announce that the jury could not even reach a majority verdict. Because another jury had also failed to agree at his first trial in March the case against him was dropped.

Mr Nelson-Wilson, of Chiswick, west London, denied murdering Martina Pratt who was found electrocuted in her bedroom at her mother's flat in Southwark, south London, last June.

The prosecution claimed that he killed Martina to silence her because she had made allegations of sexual

abuse against him and he was due to appear in court on serious charges.

Mr Nelson-Wilson denied in evidence that he had anything to do with Martina's death or that he had abused her. He said she had invented the sexual allegations she made to social workers, a teacher and police because he was strict.

The court heard that after the girl's allegations Mr Nelson-Wilson was banned by a court from visiting the family home and went to live with relatives.

Mr Alan Jones, QC, for the defence, said that if Martina did not commit suicide, as a pathologist had suggested, there were other candidates with a motive for killing her, including members of her family.

Enquiry likely on centre at neolithic site

By JOHN YOUNG

ENGLISH Heritage and the National Trust have jointly lodged an appeal against the refusal by Salisbury District Council to grant planning permission for their proposals to improve the setting of Stonehenge. A public enquiry is likely to be held next year.

The plans, published in May last year, envisaged the closure of the A344, which runs immediately past the stones, and building a new entrance and visitors' centre at Larkhill, about half a mile to the north. The £10 million scheme would also include improved catering facilities and screened parking for cars and coaches.

Last November Wiltshire County Council suggested that the new access road would cut across an area designated by Unesco as a world heritage site and would destroy important neolithic and Bronze Age remains. There were also objections by nearby residents, and Amy Hall, Salisbury council leader, accused English Heritage of ignoring local opposition.

Roy Swanson, director of properties in care for English Heritage, said yesterday: "We remain determined to ensure that visitors will be able to enjoy an informative and fulfilling visit to Stonehenge. Proper facilities will be provided for academics, students and school parties as well as sightseers."

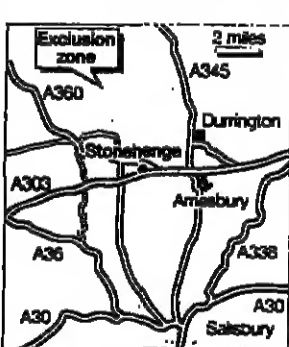
The visitor centre would be sympathetic to the landscape surrounding the monument, much of which is in the care of the National Trust.

Stonehenge is to be sealed off this afternoon when police block roads to prevent anyone trying to celebrate the summer solstice at the ancient monument.

In spite of pledges from new age travellers and hippies that they will not try to break the four mile exclusion zone, security is still high. The police are concerned that all night ravers will try to break through the zone.

The annual police operation to protect the stones costs more than £200,000 in overtime payments for officers who are on duty throughout the weekend. Various systems including allowing a selected group of druids onto the site and selling tickets have failed in the past. Now the police simply seal off the whole area.

On the road to nowhere. Saturday Review, page 10



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Deputising services have effectively ended doctors' round-the-clock commitment, a Times survey finds

Most city GPs switch night calls to agencies

By Louise Hidalgo and Ronald Faux

MORE than half the family doctors in towns and cities are using deputising services to answer calls from their patients at night and at weekends, despite a ten-year government campaign to restrict their use.

As doctors prepare to vote next week on whether to opt out of their commitment to providing round-the-clock cover, a Times survey has discovered that many have, in effect, done so already. Fifty-seven out of 100 general practices contacted said that they used private deputising agencies, who employ qualified doctors and are bound by a code of conduct.

Twenty-eight per cent used the commercial service to provide cover every night of the week, contrary to health department rules, most commonly after midnight. Some practices hand over responsibility for the entire night. The GPs at one Birmingham surgery pass patient cover to a deputising service at 7pm, resuming their duties at 8.30am.

This widespread use of deputies explains a change of thinking in the health department, where ministers are considering easing the restrictions on the services. Only last week, the Prince of Wales called on GPs to keep their commitment to 24-hour cover.

The Times survey found that the use of deputies is most prevalent in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow, which tend to have the busiest practices. Few rural areas are covered by deputising services, although many rural doctors are considering ways of reducing commitments to their patients.

Only a quarter of the surgeries contacted in London provided 24-hour cover themselves. Many switched to a deputising service after midnight, but one in ten used it to service most out-of-hours calls.

Nearly all GPs in the Manchester area use a deputising service for night calls. In greater Glasgow, 486 doctors out of 566 have permission from the area health board to use the service.

The health department had hoped to cut the reliance on deputies by introducing a two-tier fee for night calls: £45 a call being paid to GPs who responded to their own patients. But the incentives appear to have had little effect. Healthcall, the country's largest deputising service, made 1.2 million deputised calls last year. At the Nightingale House

surgery in north London, the doctors provide rotating cover every weekend for their 6,200 patients, but after 11pm they switch to a deputising service. Jonathan Halford, one of the practice's three GPs, said: "The 24-hour commitment for doctors is important in maintaining continuity of patient care, and I'm a supporter of it. But during the night, it is only patients with acute conditions who call. They can be dealt with by any doctor, and we can take over the following day, refreshed by a good night's sleep."

John Cockburn, managing director of the Nestor Medical Duty Services group, claimed that many patients were indifferent to who turned up to an emergency, provided the doctor arrived promptly.

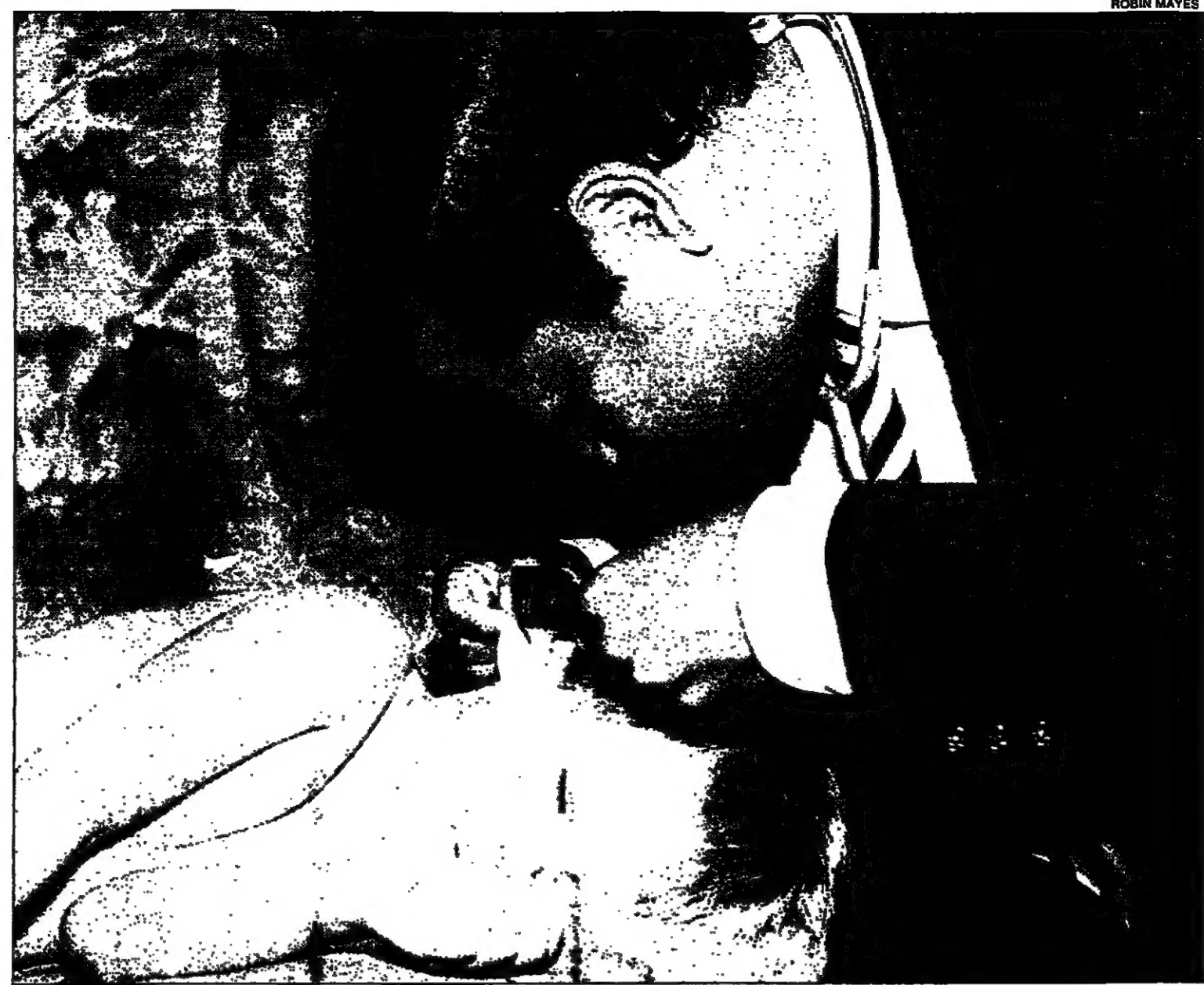
"Deputising medical duty services have been in operation for more than 30 years in cities and large towns and they have proved very acceptable. Standards are strictly controlled by liaison officers appointed by the local health authority, and patients generally appreciate that their doctor has to have some time off."

The company covers for 2,500 GPs in the North West and Midlands, with deputies working six-hour shifts, answering 160,000 calls a year, an average of 12 a month for each GP. "This is a far more sensible and concentrated use of manpower. We provide the same cover with a lot fewer doctors," Dr Cockburn said.

Ian Donnan, who runs a new practice in Stockport, Greater Manchester, said that few doctors were available 24 hours a day. "When you think about it, that is not a reasonable commitment. It is not allowed for HGV drivers or airline pilots and, if you are dragged out of bed two or three times in a night, you don't give terribly good service the following day. This is recognised in many other professions and something which is increasingly under question in ours."

Arun Kumar Sinha, who runs a new practice in Cardiff, said that he had had only two days off in his first nine months and, in an average week, was called out five times during the night and a dozen times over the weekend. "I would dearly love to be able to spend more time with my family, but at this stage in building up a practice, I cannot afford to use a deputising service."

Additional research by Lucy Rock



All in a night's work: Sri Lankan doctor Remy Stanislaus examining Mathieu Kohl, 3. Many deputising doctors are from overseas

'Patients suffer' when surgeries stay on call

AT 2.30am Dr Judy Gilley was searching a dark north London street for a patient's address when she noticed a car weaving towards her. The driver was a doctor from a neighbouring practice also looking for a patient. "It struck me how ludicrous it was to have two GPs out late at night in the same area who would not be performing at their peak in surgery next day," she said. "If we had to design an out of hours service from scratch we would not start from here."

She is not alone in her view. In a recent survey three quarters of GPs said they wanted to opt out of 24 hour cover, most reporting that they were on duty at least one weekend in four and one night per week. Their argument is that for every two or three patients who benefit from a night visit, 20 or 30 get a worse service from an overworked doctor in surgery next day. They also resent having to stay alert, and sober, in case a patient calls.

Increasing numbers have therefore contracted out night work to commercial deputising services. As our survey of GPs shows, more than half in urban areas use them to do at least part of their out of hours work. The

A survey of GPs has shown three quarters want to opt out of 24 hour cover, reports
Jeremy Laurence

government has sought to restrict this growth. Limits on their use are fixed locally by Family Health Service Authorities in accordance with guidelines introduced in 1984 which specify that they may not be used every night and weekend.

To encourage a more personal service, a two tier night visit fee was introduced in 1990 with the higher rate of £45 paid only if the GP (or a colleague in a rota of up to 10) makes the call. The fee is £15 if a deputising service visits, less than the cost to the GP of hiring the service.

The government argues that patients prefer to be looked after by their own doctor or one who knows them and that visiting a family in extremis at home is an important part of continuing care, improves understanding and cements the doctor-patient relationship.

Doctors say what a patient with stomach ache in the middle of the night needs is a

doctor — any doctor — who can tell the difference between indigestion and appendicitis, not one who is familiar with the patient's ancestry.

In recognition of growing pressure from the profession, ministers appear ready to be more flexible. They are unlikely to concede the BMA's proposal for responsibility for out of hours provision to be transferred to Family Health Services Authorities. But there is an acceptance a way forward must be found.

One scheme that has caught the eye of the BMA is a deputising co-operative in Maidstone. All 60 GPs in the town covering 120,000 patients have set up what amounts to an extended rota. Out of hours calls are referred to a central office staffed by two of the GPs in the evenings and at weekends and one overnight. The low staffing ratio is possible because call rates in Kent are low and four out of ten are dealt with on the telephone.

The GPs volunteer for three shifts a month of an average six hours and pay £130 a month towards running costs. Less than ten years ago, 27 GPs were on call in the same area on an average night.

Dr Findlay lives on in Scotland

By Kerry Gill

THE Dr Findlay tradition of doctors caring for their patients through thick and thin, night and day, persists in Scotland, where health boards have allowed only 911 of the country's 3,131 general practitioners to use deputising services.

Many of those with permission to use the services rarely do so and some only after midnight. More than half who rely on deputies work in Greater Glasgow.

The figures show that deputising services are virtually non-existent in rural areas, where more and more doctors tend to join forces to assist each other on a rota. Even so, most GPs rely on their own stamina to run what is virtually a 24-hour operation, in the spirit of the country doctor created by A.J. Cronin.

One rural doctor, who has one partner, said that he had been on call for two nights out of three for the past 18 years. "That is almost like being under house arrest," he said.

"Although these days we are helped with beepers and portable phones, you have to be pretty tough to follow that routine year on year. The other thing that has changed

is social values: people's expectations of the service have changed dramatically. The number of demands for calls out at night is going up every year."

Because of Scotland's geography many GPs work alone in isolated areas. They are helped by "associate" doctors, paid by the health boards. They usually work with two GPs, moving between the practices as the need arises, and providing moral and physical support for doctors who might otherwise never see a colleague for months.

Only five of Scotland's 15 health boards have given consent to doctors to use deputising service; all five include busy urban areas.

In Glasgow, a medical sub-committee monitors the performance of the deputising services every three months. Dr Fiona Marshall, assistant medical secretary of the city's medical committee, said that the services covered most doctors but many did not use them often. Some used the service only when ill or on holiday.

Most responses to a call-out in Glasgow occur within an hour, with emergencies covered almost immediately.

Children first on the late watch

Stand-in teams have no access to medical records and get no feedback, reports
Louise Hidalgo

IT was after midnight, and Dr Aungmyi Myint was looking weary. He had already made 15 house calls, more than two for every hour he had been on duty. There were another seven to go before he finished his shift at Healthcall, the northeast London doctor deputising service.

Most had been routine: a child with a temperature; another with swollen glands. "An average night," Dr Myint said as he finished his latest call, to a 62-year-old woman who had rung the service complaining of chest and leg pains.

The problem, it turned out, was a mild chest infection and arthritis, and could probably have waited until her surgery opened in the morning. The Burmese doctor said. But her phone call had triggered alarm bells for the team of ten operators who man the busy emergency telephone switchboard. The elderly and children are treated as priority cases. "Often people, particularly the old and lonely, wait until they know the surgery is closed and then call the emergency doctor," Dr Myint said. "Maybe they don't find their own GP sympathetic. We have to attend."

More than half a million telephone calls are handled every year by the Leighton Centre, one of the busiest of Healthcall's 34 deputising branches nationwide. Most of the 1,700 GPs who work in the 300 square mile area it covers subscribe to the service, using it either as a message-taker or to fill in for them out of surgery hours. On the night The Times visited the centre, 237 home calls were made between 7pm and 7am.

GPs pay £27 per call for the deputising service after 10pm. More than half of that can be claimed back from their local health authority. The deputising doctors, meanwhile, many of whom, like Dr Myint, are from overseas, are paid around £15 an hour. Most are general practitioners between practices, or newly trained.

Dr Remi Stanislaus, who finished his GP training six months ago, is deputising while he searches for a partnership. He said: "It is difficult. You do not have access to medical records and cannot always rely on what the patient tells you. You are responsible for the treatment you give, but you get no feedback on whether your diagnosis was right, or how the patient has fared."

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Zoo expert tells of missed chance

London zoo could have saved itself by cutting back ten years ago, a zoo guide's author tells Michael Hornsby

LONDON zoo, which is to close in September because of rising costs and falling attendance, could have saved itself by concentrating on breeding and conserving endangered animals, according to the author of a new guide to Britain's best zoos.

"London has more than twice as many animals as the next biggest zoo in Britain," John Ironmonger, the author of *The Good Zoo Guide*, published earlier this month by HarperCollins, said yesterday. "About ten years ago it became clear that they were not going to be able to sustain a collection of that size with the gate they had."

"If the zoo had then embarked on a ten-year programme to reduce the number of animals from 7,000 to about 1,000, the number of staff would have been cut to a fifth or sixth of the present level by now". Instead, the zoo had been lured by visions of becoming some kind of theme park keeping most of its large and expensive animals.

Dr Ironmonger said Jersey zoo would be a good model for those trying to save London zoo. With only 1,360 animals and charging its 225,000 visitors a year a lower entrance fee than London, Jersey was both commercial

ly successful and had an international reputation for the breeding and conservation of endangered species.

Most of the buildings in Regent's Park, Dr Ironmonger said, were "very much in line with the immediate post-war idea of a zoo in which the public walks past rows of cages with animals in them. There is really no choice but to pull most of them down and start again." The zoo should get rid of the aquarium and reptile house as well as the "children's nurserybook animals" such as giraffes, elephants, lions, tigers, zebra, camels and rhinos.

Instead, he suggested, the zoo should concentrate on less familiar species of greater conservation value. "I think the Snowdon aviary could be converted into a good monkey enclosure."

During the five years he spent writing the guide, Dr Ironmonger and his co-researchers visited all the 130 zoos open to the public in Britain and several abroad.

The 2005 are rated according to their conservation value and the spaciousness and appropriateness of the animal enclosures. Marwell zoo, Hampshire, is Dr Ironmonger's favourite.

Prince Charles: plea to the wasteful

Let me talk rubbish says prince

THE Prince of Wales yesterday told a conference of waste managers of the pleasures of "talking rubbish", adding: "Look where it has got me."

In a joking mood, he told delegates at the Institute of Waste Management conference in Paignton, Devon that the institute "has at last decided to recognise my long-standing contribution to the garbage industry". More seriously, the prince said that ways had to be found of "minimising waste, and of recycling as much as possible of what is left".

Waste created by society must be thought of "as a resource, as a nutrient, as an alternative source of raw materials, as a conversion prospect, or simply as a profit opportunity."

Police hunt second man

POLICE questioning an Irish student aged 37 under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were seeking a second man yesterday in connection with firebomb attacks on city centre stores.

Detectives fear that shoppers could have unwittingly carried devices home with them after terrorists put bombs in shops in Leeds, West Yorkshire, causing £150,000 damage in two fires early on Thursday.

West Yorkshire police said that a second man was being sought after the student from Bradford and Ilkley Community College was arrested by armed officers in Ilkley on Thursday night. He is being held in West Yorkshire under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. His lodgings have been sealed off and were being examined by forensic experts.

Police said that the Irish National Liberation Army claimed to have planted 12 devices, but only eight were accounted for. They urged anyone who had shopped at Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Waterstones, Ravello's or Superstore in Leeds to check their pockets carefully and any items they had bought there. "There may be another store where there are two outstanding devices where people bought goods. We don't know where that specific store might be." The police are working with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

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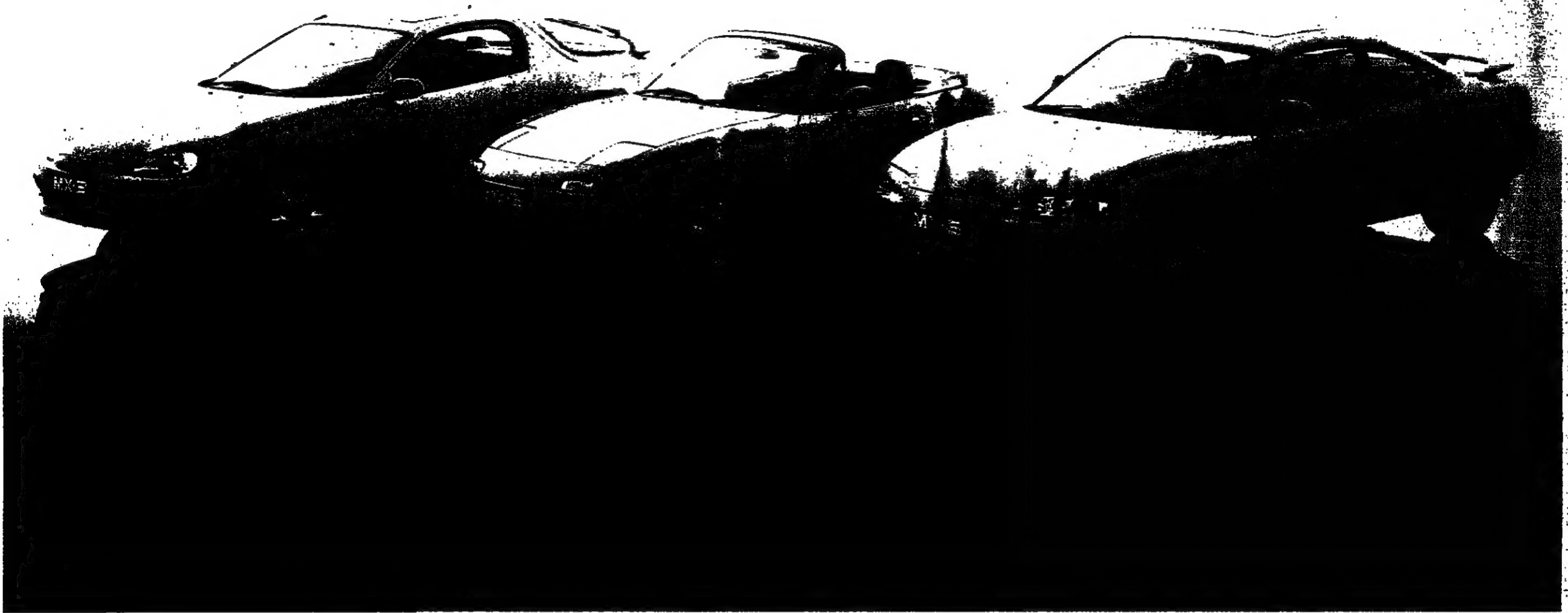
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هكزمن الأصملي

Academics challenge claims over Exodus site

BY JOHN YOUNG

A LIVELY academic argument is about to erupt over a claim in a leading Egyptian newspaper that the site from which Moses led the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt has been finally identified.

In an article in *al-Ahram*, the semi-official daily, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, is reported as stating that Kantara Sharq, on the east side of the Suez Canal, about 50 kilometres from the Suez town of Qantir, is the site of the Pharaoh's camp, from which the Israelites are said to have fled.

Dr Bakr's "confirmation", which seems certain to be widely disputed, is based on the excavation, led by Mohamed Abd el-Maksoud, of the remains of a vast fortress, measuring 800 by 400 metres, enclosing a town including a palace. Last February Abd el-Maksoud received

carrying out rescue archaeology in an area of Sinai threatened by a large irrigation scheme. Dr Chris Eyre, of Liverpool university school of archaeology, who is co-ordinating the British end of the appeal, is sending two archaeologists from the university to Sinai next week. He said that Dr Bakr's assertion might be an attempt to gain publicity for the campaign.

"To the best of my knowledge, there is no hard evidence," he said. "The exodus is not something we are able to prove."

"If it did indeed take place, the supposed crossing of the Red Sea would have to be taken with a pinch of salt." It was much more likely to have been in the region of the Great Bitter Lakes, along the route of what is now the Suez Canal, he said.

Qantir would have been a natural stopping point for travellers between Egypt and Palestine. "But I suspect that the story in *al-Ahram* may have been cooked up to stimulate international interest in the rescue work."

Ahmed Osman, author of *Stranger in the Valley of Kings*, published in 1987, and *Moses, Pharaoh of Egypt*, in 1989, said that five years ago he had suggested that the site of the exodus was at Tel Hefous, about four kilometres from Kantara Sharq.

"Four years ago the Department of Antiquities started to dig in the area," he said. "When I read of their findings, they confirmed that I was right. Until then no one had accepted my argument. But the archaeologists discovered the remains of huge fortified walls, within which was the largest Ramesseid residence ever found in Egypt, dating from the time of the New Kingdom, in the mid-16th century BC."

According to the Bible, "the people of Israel journeyed from Ramesse to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children."

Mr Osman said that Dr Bakr's reported statement, supported his conviction that Kantara Sharq was the Biblical city of Ramesse.

Leading article, page 15



a doctorate from Lille university, France, and has since been appointed director of antiquities for Sinai.

But Harry James, former chairman of the Egypt Exploration Society, said yesterday that there was still not enough evidence to prove the case one way or the other. "We don't even know when or whether the Biblical exodus ever took place," he said. "If it did happen, it was likely to have been during the 19th Dynasty of Ramesse I or II. But nothing has been proved."

"Qantir may well have been the Delta capital of the Ramesseid kings. But there is no Biblical evidence to suggest that the exodus began from the Egyptian capital. I am afraid I must sit on the fence, so that I won't come a cropper."

An international campaign has recently been launched to provide help to the Egyptians

NEWS IN BRIEF

Branson links up with Laker

Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline is teaming up with Sir Freddie Laker in a move that will allow British package holidaymakers to fly Laker again.

Mr Branson disclosed yesterday that he has agreed from next year to use the newly launched Laker Airways to fly his holidaymakers from America on to the Bahamas. Travellers with Virgin will be able to book for the Laker flight in London.

Abuse sentence

A mentally ill grandmother who partially smothered her baby granddaughter on 15 occasions in a "bizarre form of child abuse" was committed to hospital yesterday. Judge Rivlin, at Southwark Crown Court, south London, told the 41-year-old woman, who cannot be named and who was arrested after secret police surveillance in a hospital, that she needed treatment not punishment.

Stunning rescue

A rescue operation involving the electro-stunning of fish was being carried out last night on a river polluted by 10,000 gallons of farm slurry. The pollution of Hole Brook, a tributary of the Okement, near Hatherleigh, Devon, had already killed hundreds of fish, the National Rivers Authority said. NRA officers and river wardens will electro-stun fish and remove them to safety.

Libel appeal

Judgment was reserved in the Court of Appeal yesterday after almost four days of legal submissions in an appeal by Bob Murray, chairman of Sunderland Football Club, against a libel case judgment he lost. He had brought the case after a jury ruled that allegations by former director Barry Bates were not libellous.

Yugoslav agent loses his appeal

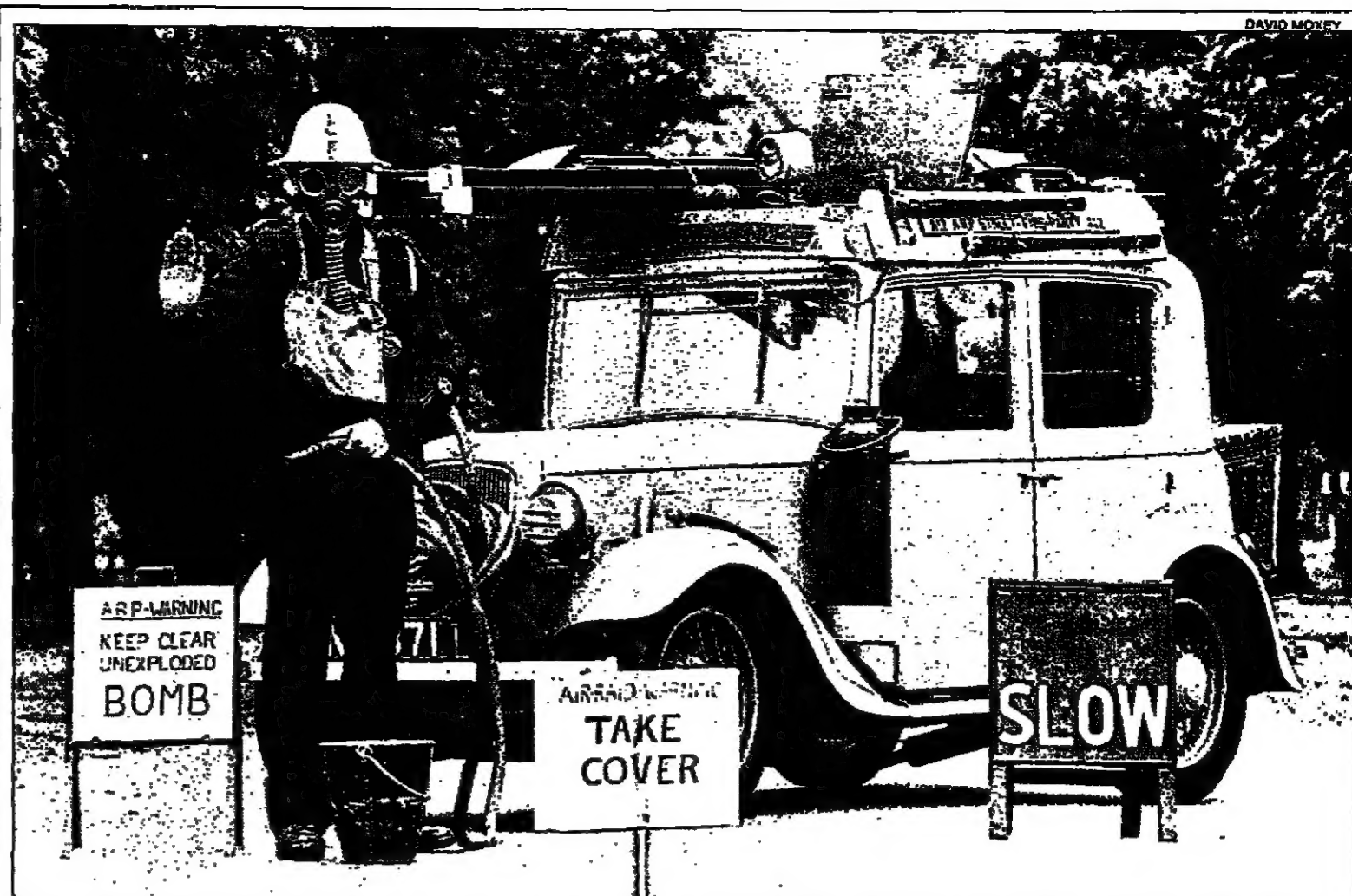
By KERRY GILL

AS HIS erstwhile colleagues rued the creation of Croatia in relative freedom, Vinko Sindjic, a former member of the Yugoslav secret police (SDB), sat in his cell in Edinburgh prison contemplating the rest of a 15-year sentence imposed three years ago for attempted murder of a Croatian nationalist leader.

Sindjic, 48, a dapper agent provocateur who travelled Europe on behalf of the Yugoslavian authorities and was suspected of killing several dissidents, was convicted of shooting down Nikola Stedul, president of the Croatian Movement for Statehood, outside his home in October, 1988. Yesterday, after appearing on 15 occasions before Scottish judges to fight his case in perfect English, Sindjic lost his appeal.

Lord Ross, the Lord Justice Clerk, read out a 55-page judgment to the Court of Criminal Appeal, which rejected Sindjic's plea that he had been framed. Throughout his trial Sindjic had claimed that he had spent almost 20 hours at Edinburgh's Waverley station telephoning friends. When gunpowder traces were found on his clothes he said he had been the victim of an assassination attempt outside Edinburgh airport. During his appearance the strictest security precautions were taken and armed officers were stationed around the courtroom.

In the three years since he was convicted at the High Court in Dunfermline, Sindjic has seen the break up of his country and, a surprise, the inclusion of his secret service headquarters in Zagreb within the new state of Croatia. His home town of Rijeka is also under Croatian rule.



War-time survivor: a 1935 Austin Lichfield air raid warden's car which is to be auctioned by Christie's at the Beaulieu motor museum, Hampshire, tomorrow. The car was adapted by PC Leonard Barr in Clacton and was last used during the 1950s Canvey Island floods

BR driver jailed for girls in cab

A BRITISH Rail train driver was jailed for six months yesterday for driving an InterCity express with three young girls in the cab.

Lyndal Hennessy, 38, misled the girls — one aged 10 and two aged 15 — into his locomotive after chatting to them on the platform at Southampton. She stayed in the cab of the Poole-Waterloo train for the five-mile journey to the next stop at Eastleigh, Hampshire, last July.

Hennessy denied endangering the safety of passengers but a jury at Southampton Crown Court found him guilty last month. At Bournemouth Crown Court yesterday Judge Bates told Hennessy it was fortunate there had not been an accident. "But that does not alter the fact that there were three young girls in the cab and you endangered the public because of the risk of distractions. We have heard from an expert witness you have to be very alert leaving Southampton station."

Hennessy, from Poole, Dorset, married with two children, had been a train driver since 1973 and had an unblemished record.

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Imbert, reformer of the Yard, to retire

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SIR Peter Imbert is to retire as Metropolitan police commissioner after five years in Britain's most important police post.

He is to leave Scotland Yard at the end of the year or early in 1993, having introduced a series of measures designed to change the force. Although there is no fixed retirement date for commissioners, it has become customary for them to move on, or retire, after five years in office.

Sir Peter, 59, said yesterday: "You have to recognise that you have to move on and build on what you have achieved in the past." He had a heart attack two years ago but after undergoing a heart by-pass operation returned to work, determined to complete his objective of reforming Scotland Yard.

The man tipped to succeed him in the £82,780 a year job is his deputy, John Smith. Mr Smith, 53, has been closely identified with Sir Peter's efforts to make the Metropolitan police service more accountable and open to the public. A former head of the

drugs squad, Mr Smith has been deputy commissioner since 1991 and has had previous service as deputy chief constable of Surrey and as Inspector of Constabulary for southeast England.

Other possible contenders include Sir Hugh Annesley, the unexpected choice as chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1989. Although born and educated in the Irish Republic, he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1958 and was deputy assistant commissioner when he was appointed to head the RUC. Among other possible candidates are Paul Condon, chief constable of Kent, and John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire.

Sir Peter set himself the goal five years ago of trying to change police culture by introducing measures aimed at making the Metropolitan police officers think of themselves as a service rather than a force. He set up the Plus programme for the Metropolitan police which devised a "statement of common purpose and values" for all officers and civilian staff, emphasising the need for courtesy, compassion and integrity. He said that the service had to respond to well-founded criticism with a willingness to change.

In an interview on Greater London Radio yesterday, he said: "The police service has to take a look at itself and see how it is responding to public needs and wants. If we are doing things the public don't want us to do, then we shouldn't be doing them — after all, we are paid for by the public."

Sir Peter, police negotiator at the Balcombe Street siege in London in 1975, said that the portrayal of the police was two or three years behind reality. "We are going through a crisis of confidence now but we published our citizen's charter three years ago. More is being done and more can still be done to improve police relations with various communities in this city."

He blamed the increase in violent crime on a lack of discipline in the home, school and in society.



Douglas Garward on his battery-powered bicycle

Stand by for charge of the electric bike brigade

Nick Nuttall forecasts that Britain's roads will soon be buzzing with battery bicycles

BRITONS could soon be coasting to work on electric bicycles in the same way that the French used to propel themselves around the towns and countryside on their black two-stroke Mobyettes.

Four months ago Sir Clive Sinclair, inventor of the ill-fated C5 tricycle, unveiled his Zike bike. Now Douglas Garward of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, has produced Citibike, a battery-powered bicycle that is claimed to cover up to 18 miles on the flat at 15mph.

Yet another new system, called Boosta, will allow a cyclist to power a standard 20in wheeled machine with two big batteries in panniers at the back; and Germany has two machines called City Blitz and Electra.

Mr Garward, whose former company was developing a joint BSB/Sky satellite television receiver before the two stations merged, rendering the technology redundant, believes Citibike will be more successful. Unlike Zike, Citibike can be folded into a car boot, using three levers, or be carried on a train.

The machine, to be built

by TGA of Halstead, Kent, uses a cassette-style lead acid battery, similar to those for transportable telephones, that fits on the back and can be removed for recharging. Mr Garward expects owners to have one cassette at work and another at home, swapping them round after journeys.

He envisages rental points at railway stations where Citibike owners can exchange a flat cassette battery for a charged one for the ride home from the commuter train. The company will also offer to fit, for £50, a £295 home solar panel for charging a cassette.

Sir Clive's Zike features regenerative braking, which charges nickel-cadmium batteries when the bicycle is coasting downhill.

Citibike, which at £495 is £4 cheaper than the £499 Zike, has no such system.

Mr Garward thinks riders would rather coast downhill freely and get further up the next hill before switching to electric power than be slowed down by the drag of the regenerative braking system. Zike uses new materials for its frame and motor and special designs for its propulsion system, while Citibike uses standard metals and a pulley system.

Mr Garward, who plans to begin production of the bike next month, claimed that the combination of a battery more than three times powerful than the Zike's and a motor with double its power gave Citibike 50 per cent more range. Like Zike, the invention can be ridden by anyone over 14 without a licence, tax disc or helmet.

Certainly the ride on the new bike is pleasant enough. On the Finchley Road, outside Citibike Manufacturing's offices in north-west London, those who had tried both electric bikes concluded that Mr Garward's slightly bigger-wheeled vehicle might have the edge for stability. But the lead battery cassette, which weighs 24lb, is something of a monster for lightweight riders.

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Fish edges meat off the plate

By MICHAEL HORNSEY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST half of consumers are eating less beef than two years ago. Price and a switch to poultry, fish and vegetables account for the decline more than "mad cow" disease, a new survey says.

The survey indicates that 45 per cent are eating less beef, 40 per cent less pork and 37 per cent less lamb. In contrast, 41 per cent said that they were eating more fish, 47 per cent more poultry and 57 per cent more vegetables.

Women are cutting back on red meat more than men, according to the survey, which was conducted by telephone among 1,011 people aged 15 and over throughout Britain by Audience Selection for the magazine *Super Marketing*. Women also worry more about "mad cow" disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Fifty-five per cent of the women surveyed said that they were eating less beef and one in three of those gave BSE as a reason. For both sexes, the most frequent reasons for turning away from beef were price and a wish to avoid red meat, widely believed to be less healthy than white.

The recent three-part BBC television thriller *Natural Lies*, which turned on the efforts of a food advertising executive to expose a cover-up of a supposed human case of BSE, appears to have had some impact on the young. In the 15-24 age group, 14 per cent said that the series has caused them to eat less beef.

Most people, according to the survey, are not particularly worried by BSE. Six out of ten said that they would not buy more beef even if it were guaranteed to be free of BSE. They accused the news media of exaggerating the dangers of the disease.

Food and Drink. Weekend Times, pages 6, 7.

NEWS IN BRIEF Mars wins battle over slogan

Television watchdogs yesterday rejected a protest from health campaigners about one of the most famous advertising slogans: a Mars a day helps you work, rest and play.

The Independent Television Commission ruled that the catchphrase, screened for 35 years, was not misleading consumers. It rejected a complaint by Action and Information on Sugars, a pressure group concerned at the amount of sugar in the UK diet, which said the slogan amounted to "a generalised health claim which could not be supported by sound medical evidence".

Britons eat about around three million Mars bars a day, the Mars company said.

Danger mixers

Cement mixers with potentially fatal electrical faults have been suspended from sale by Oxfordshire trading standards officers. Five out of six Baromix Minor models they examined were below safety standards. The company has agreed to recall stocks. Owners should have their machines inspected.

Park fire risk

Two areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park near Skipton, North Yorkshire, have been closed to visitors because of tinder dry conditions on heather moors.

Attack at club

Police were questioning a number of Royal Marine Commandos after bouncers at a Plymouth nightclub were attacked. The incident came after a commando was beaten and severely wounded in the face at the club.

Royal opening

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to open part of the grounds of Highgrove House to the public for the first time on Sunday.

Heritage opposes £50m opera house

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a £50 million opera house on the Compton Verney estate in Warwickshire are being studied by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, after they were approved this week by Stratford district council's planning committee.

Work could begin on the scheme next year but Mr Howard is almost certain to call a public enquiry because of the objections of English Heritage about the construction of a new building next to a grade I listed house.

Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, administrator of the opera project, said that a six-month option had been given on Compton Verney mansion, attributed to Vanbrugh, which could be used for concerts while the 1,150-seat theatre is being built overlooking the Compton Verney lakes. The opera house might open in 1996 if permission is granted.

The price for the mansion, a chapel and 125 acres of Capability Brown landscaping is £2.45 million. "Everything depends on planning permission, and we will be looking for a buyer who could be a kind of founding patron," Sir Kenneth said.

The house would then be let for a peppercorn rent to the opera house developers to use for concerts and recitals while the theatre was being built.

The house and grounds were the home of the Willoughby de Broke family until 1921, and are now owned by Period and Country Homes. They were the subject of planning applications for two golf courses and a hotel but the applications were suspended by Stratford council to allow the opera house plans to be considered. The project council is chaired by the present Lord Willoughby de Broke.

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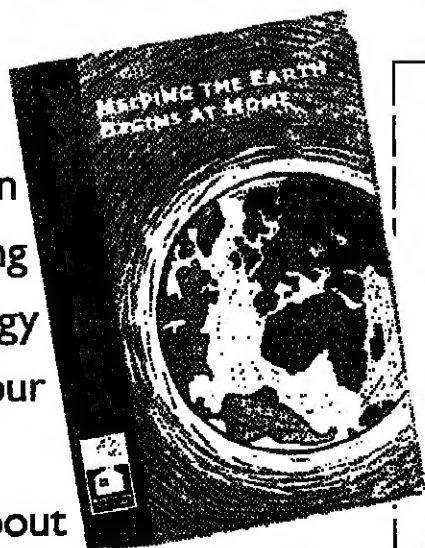
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Drivers, parents and patients put first at charter seminar

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS, parents and patients stand to gain most from yesterday's Downing Street seminar at which the prime minister sought to give fresh impetus to his citizen's charter.

The meeting, attended by most cabinet members, agreed to measures intended to make public services more responsive to their users and to bring about a cultural shift in the loftier quarters of Whitehall and its satellites. John Major told his colleagues that although considerable progress had been made since the charter's launch last summer, his attempt to transform attitudes and standards throughout the public service had only just begun.

Later, William Waldegrave, the citizen's charter

minister, made plain to any remaining Whitehall sceptics that there would be no retreat from the cabinet crusade.

"The citizen's charter is here to stay," he told a news conference. He promised another white paper in the autumn which would report on progress.

Mr Waldegrave also indicated that he would have a voice in this year's bargaining between spending ministers and the Treasury. He said he would have a "veto" over ministers seeking to justify bids for more money by citing the charter.

The seminar, attended by cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries, was held amid signs of some resistance among senior civil servants. Downing Street sources maintained that the Tory

election victory and the prime minister's commitment to revitalising the public services had put paid to such carping.

Education, transport and health appear to be in the vanguard of the campaign as Mr Waldegrave presided over announcements intended to make the public services more user-friendly. John Patten, the education secretary, announced that he would publish a charter for students in further and higher education later this year. By the autumn parents would be helped in choosing schools by examination league tables comparing performance.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said that the patient's charter would be extended into the family doctor service. It would set out patients' rights in the GP's surgery and outline new guarantees covering the availability of doctors, complaints and the role of family health service authorities.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced measures to keep motorists on the move. The key to beating jams would be better information for drivers. The transport department has licensed Traffic Master, an in-car screen made by a private company giving advance warning of motorway lane closures, delays and accidents. Next year its range would be extended from the M25 to motorways running to the West Midlands and in 1994 it would cover motorway-standard dual carriageways.

Electronic arrival boards at bus stops are also planned. A pilot scheme starts soon in London.

Motorists will also be helped by better traffic information on the M25 and tougher penalties for contractors who fail to complete motorway repairs on time.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, presented his efforts to make the police more courteous in their dealings with the public as part of his department's contribution to the charter.

Leading article, page 15



JOHN MANNING

Unionists sit at same table as Dublin leaders

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland Unionists sat across the table from Irish government representatives for the first time in 20 years yesterday and took a tentative step towards formal talks on relations between the north and south.

Delegations from the four main Ulster political parties, and the British and Irish governments met for seven hours in a private session at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre at Westminster chaired by Sir Ninian Stephen, the former governor-general of Australia.

Afterwards they reported that they had drawn up a possible agenda for the second "strand" of the talks, which is intended to bring the Irish government formally into the negotiations.

It remained unclear last night whether and when that meeting would go ahead. The Unionists, in particular, want more progress on the form of a devolved government for Northern Ireland.

Sir Ninian sat at the head of a table with the Official Unionists and the British government on the right, the Democratic Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party in front of him, and the Irish government and Alliance party representatives on his left.

The cautious atmosphere in which the talks were approached was underlined by the party delegations. None of the leaders was present and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, sent his daughter Rhonda as one of his representatives, along with Nigel Dodds, a former Lord Mayor of Bel-

fast. The Official Unionist team was headed by Ken Maginnis, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, the SDLP by Seamus Mallon, MP for Newry and Armagh, and the Alliance by Seamus Closs, its deputy leader.

The government delegations were headed by their top civil servants, the Irish by Noel Dor, head of the foreign affairs department in Dublin and former ambassador to London, and the British by John Chilcot, permanent secretary at the Northern Ireland department.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, has said that there will be an early meeting to consider the third strand, in which British and Irish governments would consider a possible replacement for the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, but it is clear that agreement on the earlier phases is still some way off. It is expected that the possible agenda drawn up yesterday will first have to be approved by party leaders.



Miss Paisley: standing in for her father

Whitehall will run school league lists

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday unveiled plans for a further and higher education charter and announced that school league tables published under the parent's charter would be centrally rather than locally compiled.

The comparative tables of GCSE and A-level results, which will appear in November, were expected to be drawn up by local authorities, but will now be co-ordinated from Whitehall.

Though centrally compiled, tables will be published for each education authority area, comparing local performance to national averages. Parents will be able to consult them in local newspapers and libraries, and further information on schools will be available from freephone and freepost services. State schools and city technology colleges will also be encouraged to include in their prospectuses information on results, truancy rates, the pro-

portion of pupils staying on and the destinations of those who leave.

Mr Patten said that parents and the wider community had a right to know how schools were performing. Further regulations will be published next year, when independent schools will also be required to participate in the tables.

Teaching unions said yesterday that the education department's decision to administer the tables itself was an insidious act of centralisation, indicating fears about the parent's charter.

In a separate announcement, Mr Patten promised a charter for further and higher education to meet the needs of the expanding university sector. The charter will set out the government's plan to break the "last closed shop" of the National Union of Students, which meets Nigel Forman, the higher education minister, on Wednesday.

Charter time: William Waldegrave, the citizen's charter minister, telling a news conference yesterday that there would be no retreat from the government's crusade. "The citizen's charter is here to stay," he said after a Downing Street seminar addressed by John Major

CHARTER IN PROGRESS

- Parent's charter published September 1991: 6.4 million copies issued to date. Publication of parent's guide to the national curriculum and information leaflets on testing pupils at the ages of 7 and 14. (Education department).
- Patient's charter published October 1991: more than one million copies issued. (Health department).
- Virtual elimination of hospital waits of more than two years. (Health department).
- BR passenger charter setting out punctuality and reliability standards and monthly figures from BR measuring performance against these benchmarks. (Transport department).
- Maximum check-in time of 20 minutes at BAA airports. (Transport department).
- Waiting time for driving tests cut from 13 weeks to five over past four years. (Transport department).
- Council tenant's charter published January 1992. (Environment department).
- Consultation papers on contracting out council white-collar services, including housing management. (Environment department).
- League tables measuring council performance from the Audit Commission. (Environment department).
- Police officers wearing name badges in Sheffield in pilot scheme that could be extended throughout South Yorkshire. (Home Office).
- End to delays on passport applications. (Home Office).
- Witnesses' leaflet and notices in courts outlining complaints procedures. (Lord Chancellor's department).
- Name badges for court staff dealing with the public. (Lord Chancellor's department).
- Performance pay for 500,000 civil servants. (Treasury).
- Traveller's charter published January 1992 and taxpayer's charter August 1991. (Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue).
- Claimant's charter published January 1992 with national targets for main social security benefits. (Social security department).
- Jobseeker's charter fully operational. (Employment department).
- Key new developments:
 - League tables of school performance in the autumn. (Education department).
 - Further and higher education charter. (Education department).
 - Performance pay for teachers next year. (Education department).
 - Patient's charter to be extended into family doctor service. (Health department).
 - Waiting times for hip and knee surgery reduced to 18 months from next April. (Health department).
 - London Underground charter next month. (Transport department).
 - A green charter for local authority environmental services. (Environment department).
 - First-stop shops for advice for small firms. (Trade and industry department).
 - Performance indicators for police in December. Code of standards for the prison service. (Home Office).
 - Courts charter later this year. (Lord Chancellor's department).
 - Telephone interpreting service for benefit claimants. (Social security department).

Rebels lose council for Labour

BY OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A HUNG council won outright by Labour in last month's local government elections has been lost by the party after seven members resigned in protest at charge capping. It lost control of Lambeth on Tuesday night after by-elections caused by the resignations cost it three seats.

The seven Labour councillors resigned after their party agreed to make £2 million of budget cuts to comply with government spending limits and avoid being capped. The Conservatives won two of the seats, independents one and Labour four. Labour now has only 29 of the 59 seats.

Arthur Taylor, leader of the Labour group, said that the members who resigned had complained that they could not carry out the policies on which they were elected because of the threat of charge capping, but their resignations had forced the council to spend £10,000 it could ill afford on the by-elections.

John Rosser, chief executive of Basildon council in Essex, says in today's *Local Government Chronicle* that 200 councils will have to make big spending cuts over the next four years to avoid charge capping. Basildon, won from Labour last month, is £7 million over its target and may have to cut spending by 24 per cent this year.

More than 230 of its 1,300 staff have been given redundancy notices, and all non-statutory services, such as welfare and benefits advice, crèche facilities and youth clubs, may have to be cut.

Packaging firms may be curbed

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government will force the packaging industry to reduce the amount of wrapping unless companies take the initiative, David Maclean, the environment minister, said yesterday.

Insisting that more needed to be achieved by industry, the government and the public to cut waste, Mr Maclean said: "We have made clear that if the industry does not produce substantive proposals we are prepared to take action." Mr Maclean also announced that the government plans to ban disposable cylinders used for transporting the CFC chemicals used in refrigeration. The move, which needs EC approval, will force manufacturers to use recyclable containers which do not allow CFC remnants to escape.

He criticised the "patchy" response of local authorities to setting up recycling schemes, despite an August deadline to do so. However, recycling should not be treated as the panacea to all problems of waste disposal, he cautioned, adding that it might sometimes be prohibitively expensive in terms of cost and energy required.

Mr Maclean insisted that the government would reach its target of recycling half of recyclable domestic waste, equivalent to a quarter of all household waste, by the end of the century. He announced that the government proposed to offer £20 million towards the cost of a large new recycled newspaper mill in Aylesford, Kent which would create a new market for 350,000 tonnes of used newspapers and magazines each year.

'The things I do for England'



This Sunday, read further extracts from Andrew Morton's extraordinary account of Princess Diana's life and marriage.

How she has continued to carry the burden of public duties while enduring deep private unhappiness.

'Diana: Her True Story' continues in The Sunday Times.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Relief scheme holds up council tax

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of the council tax may be hampered by delays in drawing up a scheme to help those worst hit by the change from community charge next April, according to a new study.

Research by the *Local Government Chronicle* and Gimlet Management Consultants shows that three quarters of the council treasurers who will have to collect the new tax fear that computer software may not be ready in time.

Although the government has already published regulations covering almost every other aspect of the tax, no details of the transitional relief scheme for those worst hit have appeared.

Environment department

officials say that they cannot release draft regulations until they know the results of the revaluation of 21 million homes, carried out for the new tax. They need to know the size of the local tax base before they can work out next year's council tax bills and how much help individuals will need.

Because the assessment of an individual's entitlement to help is an integral part of the process of calculating each council tax bill, details of the scheme will be needed before council tax software can be completed. Only after transitional relief has been deducted can other discounts be made. Software suppliers say that they will not be able to deliver complete systems to councils until they have final details of the relief scheme.

Publication of the survey findings prompted David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, to repeat his warning that the introduction of the council tax risks repeating the mistakes of the poll tax.

The introduction of the poll tax was beset by computer problems caused by the late issuing of regulations, Mr Blunkett said. "These findings confirm our worst fears about the timetable for the introduction of the council tax. Attempting to introduce an entirely new system of local government finance within this timetable creates a real possibility of a significant degree of administrative chaos and

confusion," he said.

The environment department said: "Councils already have most of the information they need, but there are several statutory instruments yet to come. Some information on the reduction scheme will be available soon."

Officials have already said that the scheme will be based on a comparison between the new council tax for each property and two poll taxes for the area levied this year.

The bill to limit the extent of business rate rises caused by revaluation received royal assent yesterday. John Redwood, the local government minister, said that 650,000 businesses would receive reduced rate bills.

Serbs ready to let aid reach civilians

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERB forces said yesterday that they would start evacuating the airport today to allow aid to reach the city's 300,000 trapped civilians, UN peacekeepers reported.

But it became clear last night that the Serbs are believed to be trying to take the Dobrinja district before Sarajevo airport is reopened to allow in UN relief supplies.

Meanwhile a member of Yugoslavia's national football squad disappeared in Sarajevo while running the gauntlet of artillery barrages to take wounded people to safety. Zelimir Vidovic, a Croat married to a Serb, made repeated trips to ferry civilian casualties from the most bombarded part of the Bosnian capital to hospital in a safer suburb. But he failed to return from one mission a few days ago, according to Dzevad Dzih, a reporter from Sarajevo Radio who spoke by telephone from his ravaged home in the city. Shelling could be plainly

heard in the background as Mr Dzih gave a harrowing account of life in the city's Dobrinja district, which is near Sarajevo airport and has taken the brunt of the pounding in the past two months. Sixty thousand people are believed to be trapped and near starvation in the suburbs.

"Vidovic was ferrying people out of Dobrinja to take them to hospital, but one day recently he didn't return," said Mr Dzih. "Then the Serbs told his wife he had been slaughtered. Another report said he was being held prisoner, but we just don't know." Vidovic runs a coffee bar in Dobrinja.

The bombing of the suburb has been so intense that the dead have been buried in passageways between blocks of flats in the heavily built up area. "This building is being attacked and part of it has been demolished. All the flats around here have been under attack," said Mr Dzih yes-

terday. "I have been up all night because of the shelling but got some sleep this morning until shelling started again at 11 o'clock. On Wednesday we had the fiercest fighting of the war. Many civilians were killed or wounded. It was a real massacre."

The battered population in Dobrinja have begun breaking into flats belonging to the fortunate minority who have managed to escape the siege before it became impossible to leave. "The police come with us as we enter the empty flats to find food," said Mr Dzih. "We rip up floor boards to make fires in the basement to cook with. Parts of our area have electricity... most do not. All our supplies of food have gone except for flour and some water."

"People are being taken away by the Serbs and we don't know what is happening to them. People are panicking. The other night people called me all night, they were terrified. Only the most stable are not at breakdown point."

"When you see and hear 300 grenades fall every day and you see neighbouring flats burning you can understand how people feel after two months of this. Even if you manage occasionally to get outside, you can't find anything to eat because it is so built up. There are no trees or gardens."

Hundreds of wounded have been treated by a Palestinian doctor who has lived in the Dobrinja area for 28 years.

● **Istanbul:** An aggressive statement issued at the end of an extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference of foreign ministers called for a toughening of international sanctions against Serbia and went some way to contracting the 47 member nations to support armed intervention in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Andrew Finkel writes).

Turkey, which in its role as conference chair, summoned the two-day meeting, is already reported to have put on the alert a tank battalion in Turkish Thrace to participate in any such UN force. "Thousands of Turkish soldiers died in Korea, thousands of kilometres away," said Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister, who indicated that Turkey regards the present conflagration as one that could spread to its own doorstep.

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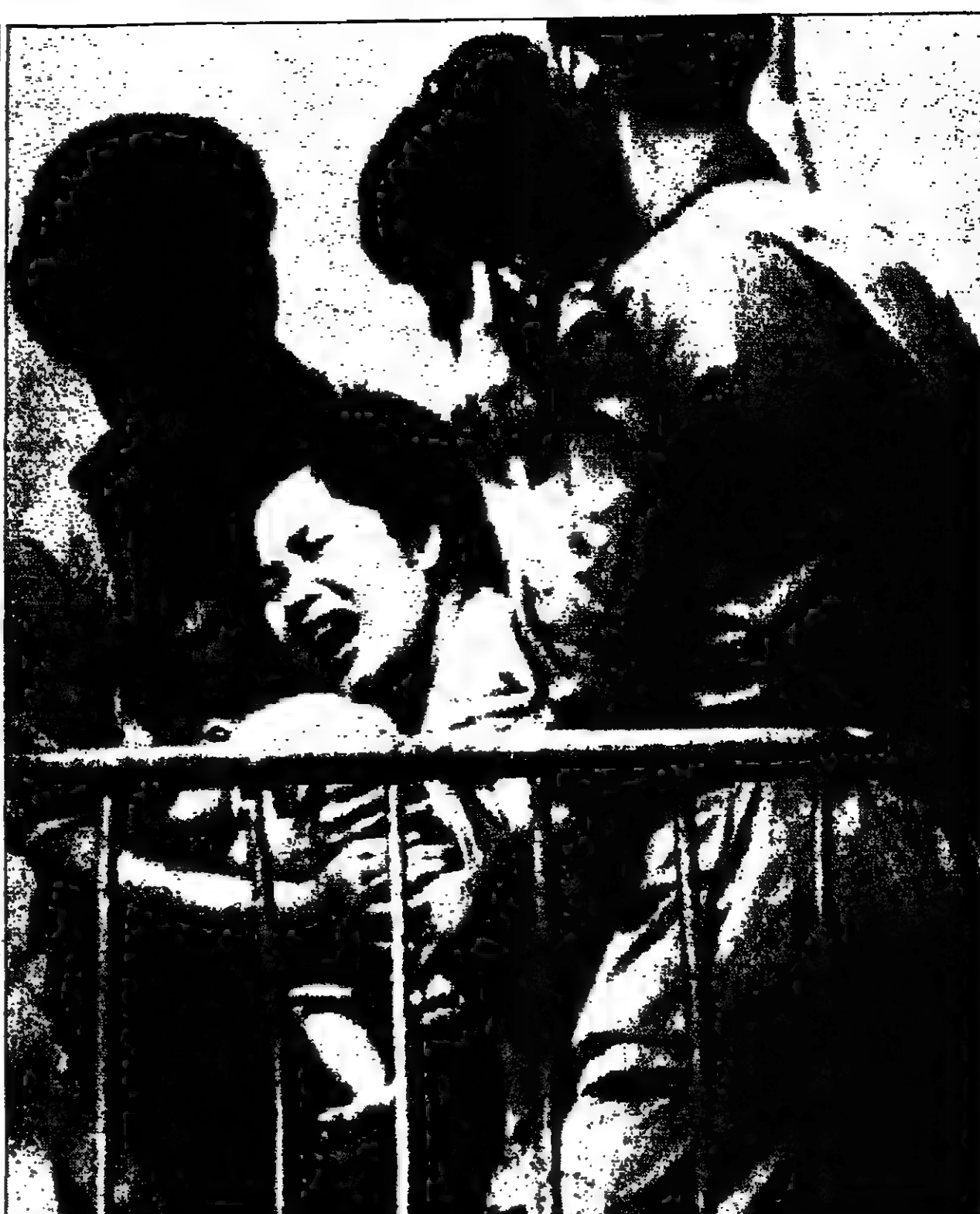
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Parting grief: a weeping Vietnamese mother clutching her baby yesterday as they were forcibly repatriated by the Hong Kong authorities among a party of 38 boat people. Officials are hoping to clear 50,000 from the

colony's detention centres (Adrian Edwards writes). Clinton Leeks, the Hong Kong refugee co-ordinator, said those going back had been guaranteed freedom from persecution, and all but 13 had volunteered

to return. But when the 38 arrived in Vietnam the authorities at once arrested a man described as a "dangerous criminal". Press photographers who tried to take pictures of the arrest were briefly detained.

Clinton camp runs out of cash

Shortage of funds is undermining Bill Clinton's already troubled campaign, Martin Fletcher writes in Washington

AT a time when the Democratic presidential nominee should be maximising his strength before the Republicans' autumn onslaught, Bill Clinton's campaign is beset by adversity. Edged by Ross Perot and last in the polls, he is now so short of cash that he has postponed payments to his campaign workers and is openly leading with Jesse Jackson, self-styled arbiter of the crucial black vote.

Yesterday, in a move designed primarily to embarrass Mr Clinton, the Republican party formally asked the government to cut off its federal funding. It claimed he had illegally used a \$400,000 (\$215,000) advance from the Democratic national committee to buy television time.

The feud was triggered by Mr Clinton's denunciation at last weekend's Rainbow Coalition conference of Sister Souljah, a black rap singer who had urged blacks to kill whites and not each other. Mr Jackson's anger mounted all week as Mr Clinton refused to apologise.

It culminated in a bitter outburst in which he accused Mr Clinton of a cowardly "sneak attack", a clumsy "Machiavellian manoeuvre" to woo white votes, and most biting of all, given Mr Clinton's draft and marital records, of a new "character flaw". Mr Jackson's attack poses a serious threat to Mr Clinton's go-for-bust strategy.

The Arkansas governor genuinely abhors racism, but his condemnation of Sister Souljah was also driven by electoral considerations. He

wanted to win back white voters who turned Republican in the 1980s and are now flocking to Mr Perot because they see the Democrats beholden to minorities and special interest groups. Conventional wisdom states that candidates should consolidate, not expand, their bases in a three-way race. Mr Clinton has evidently calculated that blacks, the Democrats' most loyal supporters, have nowhere else to go, but he failed to inspire large black turnouts in the primaries. Mr Jackson is now dampening black enthusiasm still further. He has so far declined to endorse Mr Clinton, is flirting with Mr Perot, and has planned a huge rally on the

eve of next month's New York convention. This is partly Mr Jackson's traditional policy of trading his support for concessions, but there is also a history of bad blood between the two men. Mr Perot's surge, the recession and the lack of hotly contested late primaries have so undermined Mr Clinton's fundraising efforts that his campaign is now nearly \$3 million in debt and is delaying payments to more than 200 campaign workers. For the first time in memory, the Democratic national committee is having to advance money to its candidate before his formal nomination. By late May Mr Clinton had raised \$20 million, \$5

million less than Michael Dukakis had raised at the same stage in 1988, and aides doubt that he will reach the \$27.6 million permitted under federal pre-nomination spending limits.

Lack of cash is inhibiting the advertising blitz he needs to improve his battered image and is tying him up with fundraising. Debts incurred now will eat into the \$55.2 million in federal funds he will receive to fight the general election. Moreover his perceived weakness is hampering efforts to raise millions in "soft money" that can be spent on supportive activities such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives.

The Bush campaign has no financial worries. Mr Perot, as he is refusing federal funds, can spend limitlessly from his personal fortune.

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Guardian Angels' leader shot

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE leader of the Guardian Angels vigilante group was shot and critically wounded in New York yesterday.

Curtis Sliwa, 38, who set up the volunteer crime patrol in 1979, was discovered by police lying in a street in Manhattan's East Village with gunshot wounds to his stomach and leg. A spokesman at Bellevue hospital said later that he was out of danger after emergency surgery.

Mr Sliwa was attacked on

his way to record the morning radio show he co-hosts with his wife, Lisa. He had hailed and climbed into a cab in which two white men, one of them armed, were waiting. He was shot twice before scrambling out of the taxi.

In the past 13 years, the Angels, with their distinctive red berets, have made it their self-appointed task to oppose crime through a combination of media stunts and unarmed citizens' arrests. As a

result they are hated by criminals and by the police (who say they interfere with regular crime prevention), and supported by most members of the public.

Mrs Sliwa would not speculate about who might have carried out the attack. "Don't feel bad for me, don't feel bad for Curtis," she said. "Feel bad for all the mothers all over the city who lose their children this way. The shooting has got to stop."

Hard-hit Las Vegas gambles on family image

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LAS VEGAS



Spirit of the good times: Presley was one of many celebrities personifying the Vegas dream

After sitting down behind the bar of the British Bulldog pub in Las Vegas, to watch a grainy video of the 1976 FA Cup Final while waiting for a steak-and-kidney pie, Cheryl, a former secretary from Rotham, Yorkshire, slips two Bass cardboard beer mats into her handbag.

Since coming to Vegas in 1980, her dreams have not worked out. Having divorced her American husband, she was laid off as a croupier the day before last night's world heavyweight fight between Evander Holyfield and Larry Holmes at Caesar's Palace. "Vegas isn't the fairy tale people think," she said. "The big gambling days are over — the tourists just haven't got the money any more."

The Vegas dream — personified by people such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and the gangster Bugsy

Siegel — appears to be endangered. Tickets (ranging from about £30-£60) for last night's championship fight were not sold out, with many of the usual celebrities, businessmen and fans staying away from a contest widely thought to lack menace and glamour — though Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Magic Johnson did turn up.

The stately marble swimming pool at Caesar's Palace would usually have been crowded with members of the boxers' entourages having sun-tan lotion rubbed in by swimsuit-clad girls, watched by muscle men wearing chunky gold-chain necklaces. Instead, the pool side was peopled by children and grandmotherly types in layers of towelling. As normal, however, British tabloid boxing hacks hid from the heat underneath copies of *The Sun* and *Daily*

ANC says de Klerk to blame for killing

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AS SOUTH Africa reeled yesterday after the Boipatong massacre and the death toll rose to 39, the African National Congress delivered one of the fiercest attacks so far on the government and President de Klerk in particular. It said it put the blame for a squarely on his shoulders.

At the same time scores of riot police in armoured vehicles surrounded the KwaNadala hostel from where the attack on the township and its adjacent Slovo square camp was launched. General Johan van der Merwe, police commissioner, said the 600 Zulu hostel dwellers were being confined to the complex. Weapons were confiscated.

Earlier township residents demonstrated outside the steelworks in nearby Vanderbijlpark demanding that the hostel which is owned by the Iron and Steel Corporation be closed. It is no longer used for steelworkers and residents claim it was taken over in 1990 by supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party and has been used as a military base in political violence.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, denied that Inkatha leaders had planned the raid. He gave a warning that the attack could scuttle the constitutional negotiations and described it as one that left "civilised mankind stunned at the viciousness of man". He called on Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC, who is to visit Boipatong and the squatter camp tomorrow, to join him in leading their organisations on peace missions.

Chief Buthelezi's statement was far more conciliatory than the ANC's which said that since President de Klerk came to power three years ago more black people had died violently than in 40 years of National party rule.

In Pretoria, Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, head of a



Buthelezi denied Inkatha planned raid, commission of enquiry into the cause of violence established last September under the national peace accord signed by the government, the ANC, Inkatha and other parties, announced that a preliminary hearing into the Boipatong massacre will be held early next month.

Thousands of cartoons showing President de Klerk repairing a broken "whites only" park bench are to be distributed to blacks by the ruling National Party. The aim of the cartoon is to show that there will be room for everybody on it in the "new South Africa." It is to be part of a nationwide campaign to win black support that the National Party is launching.

● **Biko claim:** A former police agent has identified a security police colonel as the killer of the black activist Steve Biko in 1977, the *Afrikaans Weekly* (Vrye Weekblad) said. (Reuters)

Dealer buys Beatles affidavit

John Lennon's copy of Paul McCartney's 1970 affidavit seeking dissolution of the Beatles was sold for £9,670 at a San Francisco auction. Notes by Lennon contradicting McCartney's arguments are scrawled on the legal document. Dealer Eric Thom, who bought the document, said: "It's absolute history." A gold album given to the Beatles for *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was sold for £12,360.

Australian entertainer Peter Allen, 48, who was discov-

ered by Judy Garland and married her daughter Liza Minnelli, died in San Diego of an AIDS-related illness. He won an Academy Award for songwriting in 1981.

● **Fumio Abe,** a former ally of the Japanese prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on trial on bribery charges, acknowledged he took money from a now-defunct steelmaker but denied promising any favours in return.

Monica Seles will be listed as

coming from Sarasota, Florida, for the Wimbledon championships after the UN adopted sanctions against her native Yugoslavia.

Armenian Vardan Mamikonyants, 21, a Mozart specialist, won the Monte Carlo piano masters competition.

Australia paid a birthday tribute to imprisoned Burmese Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, 47, under house arrest in Rangoon.

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos spirited \$5 billion in gold out of the Philippines and deposited it in Switzerland, a government body said. The bullion was left behind by Japanese forces.

American Richard Meier, one of the world's greatest exponents of architectural purity, unveiled his first contribution to the changing Paris landscape — an L-shaped home for France's cable network Canal Plus.

Manda-Devi, granddaughter of Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, will wed French MP Jean-Marie Cambaceres in Nîmes on August 29. M Cambaceres is a Southeast Asia expert.

Giandomenico Pico, the UN's hostage troubleshooter, is resigning from the world body at the end of next month for personal reasons.

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Clifford Longley

Recession does not pack the pews, as many think

For generations, little proof was needed of the existence of God or the fact that he was English, beyond the way the Church of England's books seemed miraculously to balance. As the First Church Estates Commissioner, Sir Douglas Lovelock, remarked this week, there have been lean years and fat years, and the lean years are here again. But that is the scriptural pattern, further evidence of who keeps the books. Overall, the financing of the church has been successful, and the Lord has indeed provided.

Ideally, for the sake of an easy life for the Church of England's accountants, the invisible guiding hand of capitalism should ensure that investment value and income, on the stock and property markets, move up and down in inverse proportion to the level of religious sentiment in the nation. That way, any falling off in income from the Church Commissioners' invested millions (or these days, billions) might be made good by increased generosity from the flock. As there has been just such a falling off, Sir Douglas has been calling for just such an increase. But he has a problem, and the Labour party might pick up a clue to its recent predicament if it examined why.

Despite the common assumption that adversity always leads people back to religion — that, for instance, that recession or war fills churches — sociologists looking at longer term trends have detected the opposite result. Only in one respect has the present recession brought the church much comfort, and that is as a side effect of a sluggish property market.

The churches do best in the geographically and socially mobile culture of suburbia, yet among the middle classes, participation in local church life seems to increase the longer a family lives in one place, and the deeper, therefore, its roots. The housing recession has begun to benefit Mothers' Unions, scout support groups, parents' associations and other voluntary activities as well as churches.

But more profoundly, the recession works the other way: a decline in a sense of well-being makes people more concerned with their own problems and less generous towards strangers. They are not necessarily more selfish, just more conscious that charity begins at home, and more aware that their families too are vulnerable.

It is both a platitude and a fallacy that people packed the churches at the outbreak of war in 1914 and 1939. That is what people in good times imagine themselves doing in bad, not what they actually do. Those were two of the worst years for churchgoing this century: the post-war peak for church attendance and for various other measures of religiosity was 1959, the year of Harold Macmillan's triumphant "never had it so good" election campaign. Statistically, war and anxiety are bad for religion. A rising "feel-good factor" helps religion. There is no evidence that this is just yuppy guilt, as the cynics sneered in the 1980s. It is more likely the effect of the old fashioned virtue of gratitude.

Some people may respond to security and contentment by an increase in jealous hostility towards others, but it is truer to human nature to want to share good fortune and to want there to be "Somebody" to whom thanks may be offered. Many a local pastor has observed the thirtysomething couple that has settled down to happy family life and then wanted to revive childhood patterns of churchgoing, from just such a desire (albeit possibly unarticulated).

Moved by such feelings, people may also respond to charitable appeals more willingly, just as they may more readily vote for party policies likely to hurt their own pockets for the sake of others. This week's figures on the fall in total charitable giving show just how much the recession has dampened the spirit of generosity. And in all the analysis of Labour's recent defeat, one agreed factor has been the reluctance of voters to pay more tax, even to help the obviously needy.

The assumption has been that this marks a permanent change in the way the electorate weighs self-interest against altruism. Labour politicians are now concluding that the electoral prospects of a party of higher taxation and higher public spending are forever blighted. A spot of religious sociology might put them right. The best time to invite the public to vote for higher taxes for the benefit of those less fortunate would be when the economic climate is improving. A good time to invite them to church, too.

The cult of professionalism is ruining the artistic and inspirational side of sport, says Harry Eyres

Tennis by numbers

As the first volleys sing out in the 1992 Wimbledon championships on Monday, to the casual eye and ear little may seem to have changed at one of the core scenes of English summer and sport. But for one leading challenger at least, a great new truth has dawned. Interviewed at the Queen's Club last week, Boris Becker spoke in the worryingly soft, lullaby voice of a born-again Christian, while his pale blue eyes radiated the manic intensity of an Albrecht Dürer self-portrait: "I think I have finally learnt something about this game," he crooned. "Playing tennis should be like another day at the office."

Could this have been the man who burst upon tennis as a 17-year-old with the fearless daring of a Viking god, hurling himself at distant volleys with utter disregard for probability or personal safety? That Becker would hardly have left a filing-cabinet standing within 20 yards if he had approached office work

with the flamboyant spirit he brought to tennis. In any case, Becker's newfound wisdom stood him in poor stead: he lost his first match at Queen's, to Christo van Rensburg.

Pat Cash says he is fed up with the grind of the circuit. "It's become a game for young single men, and I want to spend more time with my family. At least, if I play less often, I feel fresh and motivated when I play." But he is lucky, for he can expect a wild-card entry for most tournaments in which he wants to play. Less illustrious names are shackled to the tyrannical computer (a key element of the office game), which calculates the rankings that determine qualification for each tournament.

The computer now exercises absolute control over seedings at Wimbledon: in the past the

seedings committee has made feeble efforts to allow for the special conditions of grass, but this year its capitulation to the computer rankings is complete. "For the players, the computer is like the Bible," said a spokesman. "When we decided seedings on grass court form, the results were much more accurate." This year's top men's seed, Jim Courier, has never progressed beyond the quarter-finals.

The truth is that the "just another day at the office" school of tennis is these days firmly in charge on the court, in the administration and in the commentary box. Dan Maskell may not have been the most scintillating of commentators, but he is a connoisseur of artistic tennis. When asked the other day to name the outstanding players of recent times, he un-

hesitatingly chose Ilic Nastase and John McEnroe. Bad, unbusinesslike behaviour does not negate genius. Perhaps Nastase's most appropriate arena would be the circus, and McEnroe's might be a back alley in the Bronx, but both men's rackets have been blessed with magic. Nastase, more than anyone, showed how tennis could be an art-form, playing with wit, unpredictability and improvisation, as well as athletic beauty. McEnroe's high-strung touch has always had an alarming and thrilling fragility — you know it cannot last long, but while it does, the excitement is intense.

Dan Maskell's successor in the BBC box, John Barrett, is the very epitome of the grey-suited, clerical hegemony. "Wonderful to see a complete professional at work!" he en-

thused one year over the grim-faced, uncharismatic Ivan Lendl. I wondered whether he would find it equally inspiring to watch a highly trained chartered accountant leafing through a pile of receipts.

Surely people do not go to watch sport to witness "professionalism"? If it is just another day at the office on court, why not save time and money by staying at the office? Presumably the whole point of sport is that, like art, it is a form of play, as opposed to work (though of course it is also hard work). Can sport not be one of the precious spaces in the trammelled world where the constraints of calculation, of grinding discipline and boredom need not apply?

Casting a wider glance over the whole sporting arena, I fear that such Corinthian aspira-

tions are out of fashion, at least in England. The "workmanlike" approach of the England football team was found wanting at the European championship: the creative imagination of the Dutch may be too much to hope for, but the Scots put England to shame with their fire and flair. At the top of the cricket hierarchy, Graham Gooch and Micky Stewart preside over a regime which values industry above artistry. They have enjoyed some success, but how can they justify the continued omission of the most talented English batsman of his era, David Gower, now in prime, mature form? Opposing teams cannot believe their luck.

Perhaps Jim Courier, who in Paris played with the awesome power and accuracy of a ballistic machine, will justify his seeding and win Wimbledon. This will be tennis not as art but as artillery. Should we be surprised? George Orwell wrote long ago that sport is like "war without the shooting".

A hymn to living dangerously

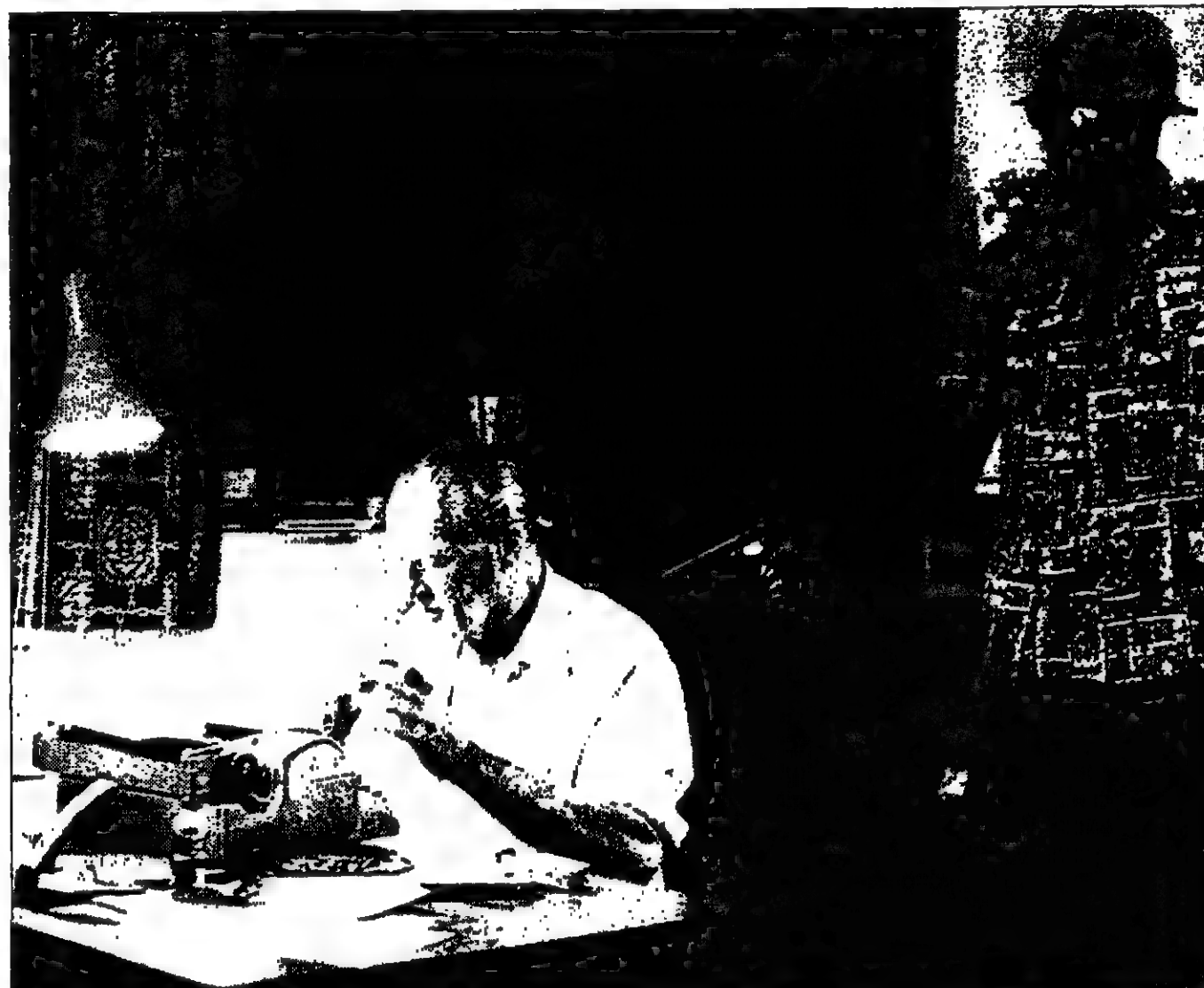
Matthew Parris wonders at the fantastic adventures of Denis Hills

No more than an infant, excited by the two-headed ogres in a Grimm's fairy tale, Denis Hills climbs in a night-shirt from his attic window and has to be coaxed down by two policemen. As a boy, alongside his friend "Warty" Bailey, he crouches in a sooty tunnel while steam engines thunder past, showering him with sparks. Commuting by train with his adolescent mates to King Edward's School in Birmingham, Denis and his pals debag another boy, draw a face in ink on his bottom and thrust it out of the window with a pencil stuck in the anus, shouting "man smoking!" as other trains, full of horrified passengers, pass. Their schoolmate, Enoch Powell, does not approve. Powell ("reputed to be cleverer than any of the masters") "had a pale face, was never without a cap, carried an armful of books, and kept to himself".

Almost sixty years later he meets Powell again. Hills has been in a hell of a scrape, had stomach cancer, refused to leave Uganda after vilifying Idi Amin, has been sentenced to death by firing squad and spent months in a Kampala death cell but been spared at the last minute by an appeal from the Queen — a tactic at which, back in England, Powell has protested about in Parliament. Hills stumbles into the African daylight. His wife leaves him. The British foreign secretary, who brought the royal message personally to Kampala, flies home with Hills in an RAF jet ("Back to the economy," sighed Mr Callaghan). Hills bumps into Powell at a crowded London party.

"I recognised the stare, the pallor and the frown. He remembered me straight away. 'You were an outstanding sportsman,' he said, solemnly. I told him I agreed with his protest [about the Queen]... Nothing more was said, and we drifted apart."

Denis Hills will be eighty next year. He has written a wonderful, stupid, inspiring life. He has caroused with fascists and liberated a shipful of Jews. He has womanised with Poles, fought



Star role: condemned to death by Idi Amin in 1975, Hills later played himself in a film on the dictator's rise and fall

the Russians of hundreds of Ukrainians destined for "reparation" and slaughter, wrecked two marriages (his own) and innumerable motorbikes. He has lived, for much of that time, almost like a tramp, sleeping out, sleeping rough, or in the old Bedford camper-van he inhabited until expelled from Poland. Rabid dogs in Kurdistan, bedbugs in Romania, purple-faced commanding officers in the British army and all the pleasures of all his friends throughout his life, have not tamed him.

As he has slipped over borders without documentation, bicycles have been his transport, peasants his companions, bears his enemies and the night sky his roof. The accounts he gives of sojourns and mountain-climbs in some of the remotest parts of Turkey, Iran and Eastern Europe are lyrical. He has climbed Ararat alone, and stood (where I have) looking down into the smoking, rumbling, banging crater of the Nyiragongo volcano in Zaire. His description is spot-on. In Rhodesia, in

his seventies, an old VW beetle and a tent pitched on the fringes of the terrorist war were his home — he had gone to ground, banned by Ian Smith for calling him the biggest cheat in Africa. Spot-on again.

For just when you think this man is comfortable on the stool of the expats' golf club bar in Kampala, he is calling the whites beachcombers, and off to teach and live with Africans in the bush. And just when you think he's a humanist and a liberal, off he goes touring rural

Nazi Germany by bike, moments before the second world war, and confessing the attraction which drew him there.

"Honesty" is the word which tugs at the reader's mind, but it is not quite the right one. Certainly Denis Hills has a brutal way of coming straight out with it, when he wants to. But with an old-fashioned distaste he turns aside from the world of love and fear, of family feelings, of emotional distress, of insecurity and personal disappointment. I think this world is familiar to

him, but he hardly speaks of it. His silence amounts almost to a pretence. "See if I care!" he seems to say. It will infuriate readers, yet tells us more about him than words could.

"Self-effacing" is another word with which one toys, and it is true that Hills plays his exploits down. But he is not really modest; he simply has the instinctive sense to avoid bragging. "Hero" is the word *The Spectator* used for him, but a hero has a cause, a mission, or at least an aim — the very things at which Hills has balked. In youth he excelled at the study of what is real or tangible, but would not engage with theories, and his hatred of general systems, together with his love of danger, bridling at authority, and his unerring instinct for spotting a cad, have shaped his whole life, aborting several promising careers, both disabling and empowering him.

Like a frightened horse, Hills rears, nostrils flared, at the first whiff of ideology or cant. He hates hypocrisy, hates cruelty, hates material greed. But there is no patient resolve to confront or dissect, no ambition to reform. He just rears, wildly, madly and bolts (often hurting himself in the process) to another hedge, mad African kingdom or night sky. In that equine sixth sense, that flaring of the nostrils, that wild gallop over the horizon, is there not something divine?

Denis Hills has lived a life that almost none would choose. He has done things no sane man would even attempt. He has behaved with unbelievable stupidity. Yet almost anyone will love, understand and enjoy this book. I hope it is a bestseller. I hope it makes him a million pounds. And I hope he goes and blows it all on yet another madcap suicidal endeavour. For this man to die anywhere but on the north face of some undimbed ice-peak, by firing squad or in a cannibal's pot would offend the gods themselves.

Tyrants and Mountains: A Reckless Life by Denis Hills is published this week by John Murray, £19.95.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Politicians are not much good at games, being fully occupied in what they see as the greatest game of all. But they are aware that most of their electors are a thousand times more interested in sport than in politics. So they try to perk up their speeches with sporting images and metaphors, usually getting them slightly wrong. In her speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet, a little ere that mighty Caesar fell, Mrs Thatcher hit a cricketer metaphor for six all round the boundary, making it quite clear that her idea of how cricket works was vague. In his deadly little speech explaining his resignation, which started the landslide to dump her, Geoffrey Howe picked up the cricketer metaphor, with the suggestion that a captain could somehow break the bats of her two opening batsmen before they left the pavilion, and ignoring the certainty that they would signal for new bats as soon as they took guard.

We are at present enduring a plague of illiterate footie metaphors. The *BBC English Dictionary*, published this week, and based on analysis of 70 million broadcast words, shows that if you hear the word "goalposts" on the radio, it is far more likely to be a political metaphor than a literal use by a commentator. "Moving the goalposts" occurs in political rhetoric, meaning that the rules have been changed after some commercial or legal process has started. In soccer, the goalposts are fixed and can be moved only

at a low level of the game, by boys in the park using their jackets as goalposts.

From the very beginning, politicians have interfered in football in an ignorant way. The Chinese emperors of the Han dynasty from 206 BC who invented "tsu" (to kick "chu": leather ball), themselves took part, and rewarded the winning side with a feast. Losers were flogged, or even beheaded.

While this might make the modern game less boring, it is only the first instance of political interference in the sport. Evidence for Greek and Roman football is slight. A key text is in Manilius's poem about astrology: "This man is skilled at returning the flying ball with a swift movement of the sole of his foot, at balancing hand against foot and playing from a firm base." Housman gets in a sarcastic muddle trying to explain how this Roman Gary Lineker kicked the ball with the sole of his foot. But Housman was as bad at football as politicians. Nobody with any feeling for games could have written: "The goal stands up, the keeper, / Stands up to keep the goal." But did he move the goalposts?

The other current and ignorant sporting metaphor is the one about the level playing-field. This is widely used to convey the impeccable political sentiment that in such circumstances as tendering for government contracts, all competitors should be considered equally, and none should have a special advantage.

But what sort of playing-field are we thinking about? Some pitches, such as that of Yeovil Town, are notoriously unlevel. Lord's has a famous ridge. The first Olympic (sic) Games held in Britain from 1601 every year until 1641 took place on the unhorizonal Cotswold Hills, under the misapprehension that the Greek Olympic Games were held on Mount Olympus, rather than at Olympia, 200 miles to the south.

In any case, it is not clear that an unlevel playing-field is necessarily a disadvantage. In most team games, the sides change ends at half-time. And it can be an advantage to be playing uphill, not down, for instance for a winger running on to a pass. But as with all these sporting metaphors, politicians ignore the precise sporting meaning and go for the lively sound.

English love of games expresses itself in sporting metaphors, usually inexact. Straight bats are seldom seen in modern cricket, and the goalposts have been moved onto a sloping playing-field by Packer Cricket for the old phrase that amuses Americans, "It's just not cricket." Pity the nonpolitical bird that flies too near the goalposts and becomes a shuttlecock in a game of political badminton, and then a political football. Such metaphors have a short life but a merry one. They soon die. Not even the most pompous MP or leader writer any longer explores every avenue or leaves no stone unturned.

Not a penny (more)

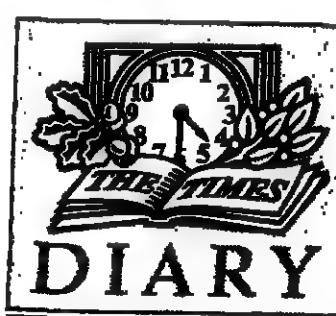
JEFFREY ARCHER, a man in a hurry if there was one, is expected to waste no time in getting onto the government front benches when he takes his seat in the Lords. The talk in the corridors of Westminster is of Archer becoming minister of state in David Mello's "ministry of fun".

The post would give him the high profile he relishes, and bring some colour to the government. It would effectively make him David Mello's number two, allowing the former sprinter to leapfrog Robert Key, Mello's deputy in the Commons, who is an under-secretary of state.

There is only one hitch. Archer's critics point out that John Major's ministerial budget is already exhausted. There is no spare cash to pay the £45,000 salary which usually goes with the job. While this would be an insurmountable object for most politicians, it is no problem for the multi-millionaire author, who is expected to waive the salary. Like Michael Heseltine, Archer would also forgo the ministerial Montego in favour of his own chauffeur-driven Daimler.

Lord St John of Fawley, who was an MP at the same time as Archer, believes Archer might set a precedent if he did not draw a salary. "It is true that there can be only 50 cabinet ministers and ministers of state drawing salaries, but it is quite legitimate to create an extra minister without a salary being paid. I can recall examples of members of the cabinet not being paid, but not ministers of state," he says.

A precedent for a politician coming out of the wilderness straight into government without spending time in the purgatory of the back benches has been set with the



appointment of Sir Derek Spencer as Solicitor-General.

But even the speedy Archer will have to wait before he takes a seat on the red leather. He is at the back of the queue for the allocation of titles, and there is a logjam of new peers waiting to see the Garter King of Arms, Sir Colin Cole. So there is little Archer can do but drum his fingers until the new session starts in October.

Made in heaven

JENNI MURRAY, under fire from all sides after her article on the pitfalls of marriage, in which she wrote that it had reduced her "to the status of a legal prostitute", has found a chivalrous and surprising supporter in John Prescott.

The Labour MP, a member of the "rottwheel tendency" on the party's front bench, was asked to appear on Murray's *Woman's Hour* programme on Thursday, along with Labour MPs Harriet Harman and Bridget Prentice, to discuss why Labour appeared too macho to women voters.

After the show, Prescott stunned the crew by falling to his knees and proposing marriage. Murray, taken aback by the gesture, gracefully declined.

Mrs Prescott will doubtless be relieved.

Most of the new Russian republics are deleting references to communist heroes from squares and public buildings, but Uzbekistan has gone one better. To the consternation of local taxi drivers, officials have swapped round the street names. The names of local figures, previously consigned to small side streets, are now gracing wide boulevards. One recent visitor looking for a government building in Hanza Street found himself outside a small house on the outskirts of town. "We used to be Hanza Street," said the householder. Try what used to be Kirov Street. I think that's Hanza Street now."

John Kennedy Prospekt



Oil and water

TALK of a new £100 million opera house to mark the millennium could run into problems other than funding. The mooted site in Jubilee Gardens next to the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank is overlooked by the imposing Shell Centre, and employees do not intend to give up their view, culture or no culture. "We own the freehold of the Shell Centre and there is a covenant which protects our line of sight across Jubilee Gardens," says a spokesman for Shell

International. "We enjoy the view — I'm watching a pleasure boat just now — and we intend to do so for some time to come."

Fine and private?

NO Maxwell asset is sacred, it seems. Fraud squad officers preparing to scale the mountains of paper involving the Mirror Group will be surprised to find one letter from two Maxwell pensioners. The venomous missive demands the immediate exhumation of the former publisher and the sale of his grave on the Mount of Olives, valued at up to £15,000. It had always been Robert Maxwell's wish that he should be laid to rest in the exclusive cemetery facing the old walled city of Jerusalem, but the pensioners believe they have borne the entire cost of the ceremony.

Helen Liddell for the Mirror Group said yesterday: "These pensioners clearly feel the money from the sale would be better placed in the pension fund to help clear some of the debt." What they may not recognise is that the plot may be worth as little as £5,000.

Boris Pankin, the Russian ambassador to London, is taking a leaf out of Boris Yeltsin's book. While Yeltsin wins plaudits in America for his Mr Nicotony approach to international relations, Pankin is quashing rumours that he is suppressing the rabbit population on his country estate. Stories that he has invited his former KGB colleagues to the ambassadorial country retreat near Flixwell to shoot the rabbits are hotly denied. "It is absolute poppycock," says a spokesman for the embassy. "Yes, of course there are lots of rabbits but there has certainly been no shooting. These days a former KGB minder wouldn't hurt a fly."



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

June 19: The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel Grenadier Guards, this evening attended a Regimental Dinner at Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey.

Captain George Roche was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 19: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, today carried out engagements in South Wales and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Glamorgan (Mr Murray McLaggan).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Dolydder Outdoor Centre, Dolydder, the Merthyr Tydfil College where His Royal Highness was entertained to luncheon.

The Prince Edward visited the Garden Festival of Wales, Ebbw Vale, this afternoon, and Penn Pharmaceuticals, Tredegar, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Glamorgan (Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison).

His Royal Highness this evening attended a reception at the Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle, Llanwrtyd Major, followed by a Midsummer Ball at the Prince of Wales House, St Nicholas, Cardiff, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards).

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 19: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitwear and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Faithful Ltd, Norwich Road, Worcester, and was received by Sir Berwick Lechmere, Bt (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester).

Her Royal Highness, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this afternoon opened Holme Lacy at Hereford College of Agriculture and was received

by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hereford and Worcester (Mr Thomas Dunne).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 19: The Prince of Wales today visited Torquay and was received by Sir John Palmer (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon).

His Royal Highness addressed the Annual Conference of the Institute of Waste Management at the Festival Hall, Torquay.

The Princess of Wales visited Renfrewshire and was received by Major Sir Houston Shaw-Stewart (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire).

Her Royal Highness this morning opened the new wing of the Accord Hospice at Hospital Grounds, Paisley.

The Princess of Wales this afternoon visited the Paisley Centre, Paisley.

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened the Edgipole Blinds headquarters at Inchinnan Industrial Estate, Inchinnan.

Finally the Princess of Wales visited the Princess Louise Scottish Hospital (Enskine Hospital) at Enskine, Glasgow.

Mrs James Lonsdale and Captain Edward Musto, RM, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 19: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the Essex Agricultural Society Show at the Essex Showground, Great Leighs, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
June 19: Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron of the Royal Overseas League, this evening attended the Final Concert of the League's 40th Annual Music Competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1.

The Lady Mary Muntford was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Adam Ferguson, philosopher, Logarath, 1873; Jacques Offenbach, composer, Cologne, 1819; Medardo Rosso, sculptor, Turin, 1858; Kurt Schwitters, painter and poet, Hanover, 1887.

DEATHS: William Barons, navigator, the Arctic, 1597; Karl Abel, violinist and composer, London, 1787; William IV, reigned 1830-37, London, 1837; James C. Macpherson, poet, Meath, 1849; Jules de Goncourt, writer, Auteuil, France, 1870; Pancho Villa, revolutionary, assassinated, Parral, Chihuahua, 1923.

Only 23 survived out of the 146 Britons imprisoned in the Black Hole of Calcutta, 1756.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: William Aytoun, poet, Edinburgh, 1818; Pier Luigi Nervi, engineer and architect (Unesco building, Paris), Sondrio, Italy, 1891; Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher, Paris, 1905.

DEATHS: Edward III, reigned 1272-77, Sheen, Surrey, 1377; Niccolò Machiavelli, statesman and writer, Florence, 1527; John Lubbock, 1st Baron, 1839; John Smith, soldier and colonel, London, 1631; Isigo Jones, architect, London, 1652; Friedrich Froebel, educational reformer, Marienburg, Prussia, 1852; Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, composer, Lyubensk, Russia, 1908; Edmund Spenser, 14th Earl of Spenser, 1940; Maurice Connolly ("Little Mo"), Wimbledon singles champion, 1969.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday After Trinity

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST ROSEMARY CATHEDRAL 8.15 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

TOWER OF LONDON 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

TEMPLE CHURCH 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST ROSEMARY CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL 8.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 10.30 AM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 1.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 3.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector. 5.30 PM: Rev. Canon John H. Jones, Rector.

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Titian's *Venus and Adonis*, one of two paintings sold to the Getty Museum for a total of £14 million

Getty Museum's £14m spending spree surprises British art market

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE Getty Museum's purchase for £14 million of two paintings is being seen as a boost by a straitened art market. This week has seen two eminent West End galleries announce their closure and the top dealers' showcase, the Grosvenor House Fair, failed to excite big sales.

The paintings bought by the museum were recently valued at £170 and £1.5 million on the British market.

Apart from raising questions about the extravagance of the museum's spending, the acquisitions of *Portrait of Pope Clement VII* by Sebastiano del Piombo and *Venus and Adonis* by Titian, mean that some of London's dealers have made a killing in the midst of the recession.

Five years ago, the portrait of Pope Clement VII by the Italian mannerist Sebastiano del Piombo sold for £170 at Sotheby's, Chester, dismissed in the catalogue as "Italian School, nineteenth century".

The Getty's second acquisition, Titian's *Venus and Adonis*, was offered for sale by Lord Normanston at Christie's last December,

estimated at £1.5 million. At the time, Christie's experts believed it was one of many versions of the subject. To general astonishment, however, it sold for £7.48 million to the London dealers Hazlitt Gooden & Fox in partnership with the New York dealers Herman Shickman of New York. They firmly believed the painting is fully by the great master. The price on their export application was £7.59 million.

Both paintings spent time under temporary export stops, theoretically giving British museums time to raise funds, but paltry acquisition budgets meant this was out of the question.

Members of the museum would say that many of the great paintings that have performed well at auction this season have been prime heritage items for which British museums did not have adequate funds to bid.

There are fears that David Melior, the heritage minister, is depending too much on the proposed National Lottery to provide funds for such purchases. Because the lottery is not scheduled until

1994, there is time for many more works to drift abroad.

Mr Melior was lucky to have escaped two heritage treasures, over Canaletto's painting of the Old Horseguards Parade in London and *Oberon and Titania* by the Victorian artist Richard Dadd. The former sold for £10 million to Andrew Lloyd Webber, who has put it on loan to the Tate Gallery. The latter is also believed to have also been bought by the composer, although his office will not confirm this. The Titian and Sebastiano paintings are, however, arguably great losses to the nation.

Meanwhile, Grosvenor House had no such choice offerings to attract the buyers. Indeed the highest quality annual art and antiques fair in the world, started off in an uneasy atmosphere as exhibitors squabbled over the attribution of a Franco-Burgundian pendant at the Warski stand.

Later, the pendant was given a prize for excellence, but the damage was done as the news of infighting got out. Kenneth Snowman, the

director of the firm, says he will never exhibit there again.

Now, unless a miracle happens before the fair closes tonight, the best sale appears to have been the £100,000 paid by a couple from Kentucky for a collection of Coade stone garden statuary at the Seago stand. The couple were so taken with the nymph, urns, and tasteful greenery that they bought the entire display, including the worthless rocks on which the ensemble is based.

Another dealer under siege was Peter Nahum, for the simple reason that he had cast aside the pretensions which prevent most Grosvenor House dealers from providing price labels for their public. The cut-down prices scrawled in his own hand meant that by yesterday he had sold ten paintings for a total of £170,000. The star was *White Killed Cock Robin*, a painting of creatures and fairies by the Victorian artist John Anster Fitzgerald, which was bought by a Japanese collector for £38,000.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr P.C.J. Canavan and Dr P.R. Galvin
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs James Canavan, of Sligo, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Galvin, of Edinburgh.

Mr P.R. Howgrave-Graham and Miss T.R. Holden
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Dr and Mrs A.J. Howgrave-Graham, of Down, and Tanya, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs V.S. Holden, of Melksham, Wiltshire.

Mr E.J. Lancaster and Miss R. Crampston
The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of Mr and Mrs Edmund Lancaster, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Rachel, daughter of Mrs Barbara and the late Jim Crampston, of Ormeau, Norfolk.

Mr W.M.E. O'Leary and Miss C.J. Talbot-Ponsonby
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr David O'Leary and Mrs Maureen O'Leary, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Michael Talbot-Ponsonby and the late Mrs Michael Talbot-Ponsonby.

Mr C.E. Pestell and Miss A.A. Gilkes
The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Pestell, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Astrid, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Gilkes, of Hong Kong.

Mr G.R. Tyler and Miss C.D. Pinner
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Tyler, of Forest Hill, London, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Rath, of Golders Green, London.

Mr T.H.F. Vos and Miss D.J. Stamp
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Paul Vos, of Nancy, France, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stamp, of Coppe Wood, Middlesex.

Mr N.A. Wason and Miss D.M.L. de Castellan
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Wason, of Faldenside, Melrose, Roxburghshire, and Delphine Marie Louise, daughter of La Comtesse Albert de Castellan, of 5 Av des Fleurs, Bruxelles.

Church news

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Geoffrey Fraser, Vicar, Uffculme (Exeter) to retire as from September 30.

The Rev William Henderson, Vicar, Aine w Aldwar (York) to retire as from July 31.

The Rev Harold Kichen, Rector, Kenyon, Mansfield (Nottingham) to retire as from June 30.

The Rev Gillian Orpin, Parish Deacon, Passenheim w Deanshangar (Peterborough) to retire as from August 31.

Birthdays

Prince William of Wales is 10 tomorrow. The Duchess of Gloucester celebrates her birthday today.

TODAY: Professor William Balchin, geographer, 76; Sir Brian Barham, diplomat, 58; Professor Arthur Bell, former director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 66; Lord Brightman, 81; Mrs Catherine Cookson, author, 86; Miss Wendy Craig, actress, 58; the Earl of Cranbrook, 59; Brigadier Jill Field, director, Army Nursing Services, 58; Mr Stephen Peers, film director, 51; Mr David French, director, 51; Mr Ronald Hines, actor, 63; Mr R.P. Hornby, former chairman, Halifax Building Society, 70; Mr Allan Lamb, cricketer, 57; Mr S.G. Metcalfe, chairman, Rankin Hovis McDougall, 60; Mr Johnny Morris, broadcaster, 76; Sir Antony Pilkington, chairman, Pilkington, 57; Mr John Powis, governor, Dartmoor Prison, 39; Mr Lionel Richie, singer and songwriter, 43; Mr Budge Rogers, rugby player, 43; Professor Sir Richard Southwood, vice-chancellor, Oxford University, 61; Viscount Stuart of Findhorn, 68; Mr Justice Tudor Evans, 72; the Right Rev John Walne, Bishop of Chelmsford, 62; Mr Brian Wilson, singer and composer, 50.

TOMORROW: Mr J.C. Bamford, founder, J.C. Bamford Excavators, 76; Miss Beatrix Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan, 39; Brigadier Helen Cattanach, former director, Army Nursing Service, QARANC, 72; Professor Anna Davies, philologist, 55; Mr Ray Davies, rock star, 48; Mr John Edwards, cricketer, 55; Mr Wally Fawkes, cartoonist, 68; Major-General R.F.K. Goldsmith, 85; Viscount Gort, 76; Miss Kate Hoy, MP, 46; Sir Bernard Ingham, former chief press secretary to the Prime Minister, 60; Mr George Jones, MP, 60; Professor Patricia Lindop, radiobiologist, 62; Mr M.D. McWilliam, director, School of Oriental and African Studies, 59; Sir Michael Marshall, MP, 62; Mr Peter Marshall, former Commissioner, City of London Police, 62; Sir John Morgan, diplomat, 63; Sir Edwin Nixon, former chairman, IBM UK Holdings, 67.

Marriages

Mr M.A. Charles and Miss C.J. Graham-Robinson
The marriage took place on Thursday, June 4, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr Michael Charles to Miss Camilla Graham-Robinson. The Rev Michael Brown officiated, assisted by the Rev Christopher Couraude. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Julie Griffiths, Miss Clemence Hambury and Master Hugo Hambury. Mr Richard Jones was best man.

A reception was held at the Hurlingham Club and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Lieutenant Colonel S.C.H. Cleverley and Miss M.C. Armstrong-Wilson
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday, May 23, in Dorset. The bridegroom is Lieutenant Colonel Simon Cleverley, MBE, and Mrs Caroline Armstrong-Wilson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGES

GOLDING-HAYDEN - The marriage took place on Friday, June 19th at Winchester Register Office of Peter John Golding and Judith Ann Hayden, 49 Marston Road, London W8, orphans of the late Mr T.S. and Mrs M.A. Clark.

BIRTHS

ALLSOP - On June 18th, to Nicola, wife of Travis and Edward, a son.

BLANCH - On June 18th, to Mrs. Blanch, wife of Mr. John, a daughter, a son.

CROWDER - On June 18th, to Mrs. Crowder, a daughter, a son.

FARRE - On June 18th, to Mrs. Farre, a daughter, a son.

FENNELL - On June 18th, to Mrs. Fennell, a daughter, a son.

GAYNOR - On June 18th, to Mrs. Gaynor, a daughter, a son.

HODSON - On June 18th, to Mrs. Hodson, a daughter, a son.

JAMES - On June 18th, to Mrs. James, a daughter, a son.

KEANE - On June 18th, to Mrs. Keane, a daughter, a son.

KEELLY - On June 18th, to Mrs. Keelly, a daughter, a son.

LEWIS - On June 18th, to Mrs. Lewis, a daughter, a son.

MAUNDER - On June 18th, to Mrs. Maunder, a daughter, a son.

MAYNARD - On June 18th, to Mrs. Maynard, a daughter, a son.

DEATHS

IVANOV - On June 18th, to Mrs. Ivanov, a daughter, a son.

LEWIS - On June 18th, to Mrs. Lewis, a daughter, a son.

MAUNDER - On June 18th, to Mrs. Maunder, a daughter, a son.

MAYNARD - On June 18th, to Mrs. Maynard, a daughter, a son.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

TRUSTEE ACTS

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Latest wills

Recent wills include:
Mrs Mary Sabina Trimmann, of Newbury, Cornwall, left estate valued at £2,414,201 net.

Miss Winifred Mary Gember, of Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent, left estate valued at £622,515.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr John Charles Adams, of London NW3, £563,953

Mr Walter Beech Arbuthnot, Lich-

field, Staffs., £1,021,998
Mr Thomas Brown, Harlepool, Cleveland, £608,103

Mr John Charles Arnold Greenwood, Rogate, West Sussex, £530,353

Mr Frederick Charles Hicks, London NW3, £1,123,470

Miss Marjorie Florence Hinton, Warborough, Wills, £568,942

Mr Frederick Charles Hicks, London NW3, £1,123,470

Miss Marjorie Florence Hinton, Warborough, Wills, £568,942

Margaret Joyce Ives, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, £535,292

Mr Robin Llewellyn Major, Chobham, Surrey, £783,592

Mr Eric George Parsons, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, £948,658

Mr Raju Piyush Bipin Purohit, Hartford, Cheshire, £679,927

Miss Nancy Saphir, of London NW3, £972,673

Mr Frank Sydney Shrimpton, of Hook Heath, Surrey, £727,662

Mr Wesley Smith, of Lewannick, Cornwall, £1,166,725

Miss Sarah Annie Phillips, of Broadstone, Dorset, £573,079

Mr Christopher Brunsen Friday, of London SW6, £538,190

Mr Frank

LORD NEWTON

WORD-WATCHING

72 page 18

All
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carving of human bodies, sometimes
a woman

44
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to"

1
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"bitter" a "baccant," name that duty that
as well as a "baccant" as yet

TOMORROW: Prince Edward, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will visit the Graigroyston Open Award Centre at the Graigroyston Community Centre, Pilton, Edinburgh, at 10.40; and will visit the Scottish Division Depot open day at Glenrose Barracks, Penicuik, Midlothian, at noon.

Whatever handicaps the mini-cabs may have — and passengers will discover that they are not as comfortable as the traditional taxi because they are small and, with the radio, noisy — the public seem well aware of them and anxious to use them.

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Dr. Evans, Physics; Dr. S. Frankel, Health Care Evaluation; Dr. S.S. Prime, Oral Medicine; Dr. M.J.A. Tanner, Biochemistry; Mr. H.B. Cookham to an Honorary Chair in Surgery.

Promotions to Readerships
Dr. M.P. Allen, Physics; Dr. M.J. Benton, Palaeontology; Dr. G. Berghaus, Drama; Dr. T. Cosgrove, Physical Chemistry; Dr B. Physics; Dr C.G. Proul, Biochemistry; Dr J.G. Schofield, Biochemistry; Dr D.J. Smith, Mechanical Engineering; Dr C.A. Taylor, Civil Engineering; Dr B.T. Thomas, Computer Science; Dr T.E.J. Wiedemann, Classics and Archaeology; Dr P.M. Williams, Theology; Dr M.R. Wisnom, Aerospace Engineering.

Lord Bunsfield was host at the annual Buckton Browne-Gray dinner of the Harvelian Society of London held last night at the House of Lords. Professor Merton Sandler, president, welcomed the guests Professor Paul Turner, President of the Medical Society of London, and Mr Alexander Eyle, President of the Hunterian Society.

Appointment

The final reception of the Officers' and Aircrew Selection Centre held last night at RAF Biggin Hill. Wing Commander C.D. Joyner presided and the guests were welcomed by Air Commodore P.D.L. Gover, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant of the centre. Mrs Gover, Wing Commander L.V. Palmer, Station Commander, and Mrs Palmer.

The colour, the distinctive "rank" of officials (two, or three

Whatever handicaps the mini-cabs may have — and passengers will discover that they are not as comfortable as the traditional taxi because they are small and, with the radio, noisy — the public seem well aware of them and anxious to use them.

Major warns Tory sceptics

Continued from page 1
ment is eventually done. Mr Major was relieved by the Irish vote but neither he nor his senior colleagues were misreading the difficulties facing the treaty or the hazards they may face when they reintroduce the legislation in the Commons this year or early next. They believe that a separate referendum in a second Dáil plebiscite would kill it off.

Last night, however, Mr Major was clearly telling the Tory rebels that he had no intention of backing down on an agreement he negotiated in good faith. He said: "The questions before us are large than the Maastricht treaty of Europe itself. At Maastricht we made advances for development as we wish to do. We want to put that at risk. We want this country to be a heart of Europe. Only if we are there can we have an influence."

He challenged the Eurosceptics by saying that the government's vision of the future was not the federal closed shop that many Tories want. We have our own agenda in Europe - to press ahead with enlargement, to curb centralism, to strengthen subsidiarity, to have proper control over the commission, to end deregulation, to pursue CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reform, to create a genuinely open market.

The sceptics, however, maintained that the future of the country was at stake. They said: "The future of the country is at stake. The future of the country is at stake. The future of the country is at stake."

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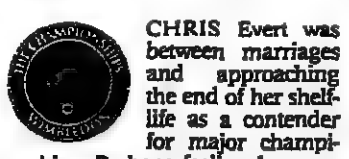
WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY JUNE 20 1992

PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

When bubbly flowed like barley water

Wimbledon today may have glitz, but it lacks the old style — and the voice of Dan Maskell is gone. Rex Bellamy recalls champagne on centre court



CHRIS Evert was between marriages and approaching the end of her shelf-life as a contender for major championships. Perhaps feeling her age, she left a poolside dinner party at Eastbourne as the jollies were winding down — or, for those players and camp followers with a taste for boisterous excess, winding up. She was not the first to leave. Dan Maskell and *The Times* were already in the hotel foyer, talking of this and that. Evert joined us and began to explore Maskell's memory of such former champions as Helen Wills Moody and Alice Marble.

Maskell was ever a man for detail, and any exploration of his long and retentive memory tends to be rewarding if time-consuming. Playing gooseberry, I thought at first that Evert was merely being sociable. About half an hour later — no fault of the affably garrulous Maskell — it had become evident that her curiosity was genuine and deep. This prompted the further thought that all of us become more interested in history as we consciously come closer to being a part of it.

That chance meeting jumps to the front of the mind because, after 43 years at the microphone, 84-year-old Maskell has retired. "I'll be there, but not in the course of duty," he says. "I haven't missed a single day's play since 1929 and I'm not about to start now." He has no doubts about his personal favourite players. "Rod Laver — a truly great champion — and Martina Navratilova."

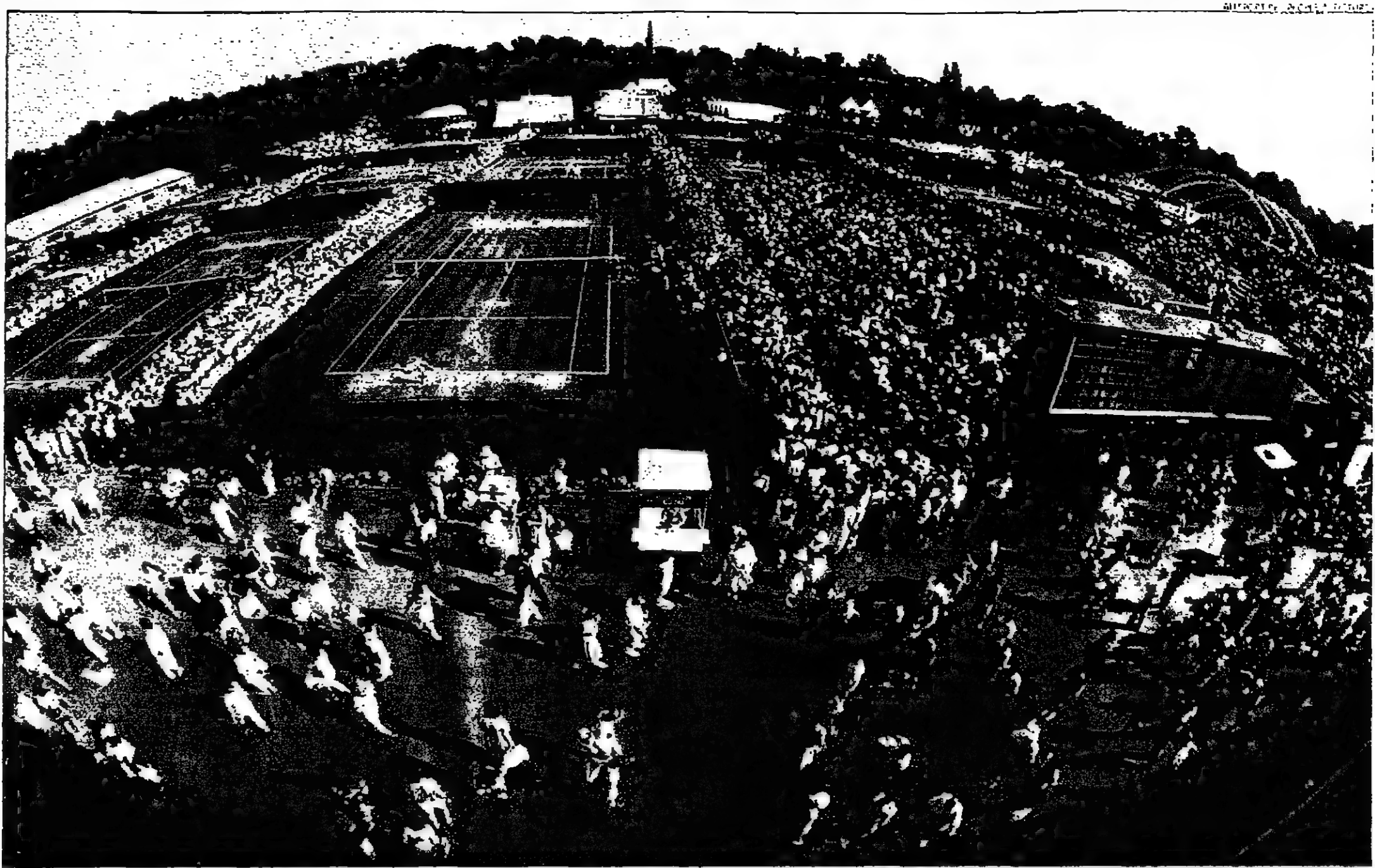
His familiar tones will no longer be heard at just the moment when, in biblical terms, Wimbledon's allotted span has expired. It is precisely 70 years since the championships moved from Worple Road in southwest London to Wimbledon Park Road (now Church Road), and the challenge rounds were abolished.

To take the second point first, until 1922 the holders of three championships — both singles, plus the men's doubles — were asked to play only one match, against the winners of all-comers' tournaments. The women's and mixed doubles did not become official championships until 1913, and never used the challenge round system.

So 1922 was important for two reasons: the shift to new premises and the abolition of challenge rounds. These innovations were almost drowned at birth and certainly had a good dunking, because those 1922 championships were the wettest on record. It rained every day and the tournament finished on a Wednesday, having lasted 15 days instead of the scheduled 12.

Even the venerable Maskell was not broadcasting in those days. Indeed, it was not until a year later that, at the age of 15, he was taken on the Queen's Club staff as a ball-boy. But 1922 did introduce the medium at which he was to excel, because that was the year of the first sports commentary on British radio (a fight between Georges Carpentier and Ted "Kid" Lewis at Olympia).

Born in 1877, the Wimbledon championships eventually became so popular that they outgrew the Worple Road grounds. The crux came in 1919 when the crowds overtaxed the resources of the police and the tolerance of local residents. The decision to move to a larger site was taken in 1920, but it took two years for today's premises to be selected, purchased and prepared. The cost, about £140,000, was met by the issue of 550 debenture shares (good for five



Modern Wimbledon magic: fish-eye view of the proceedings. Spectators at the then-new grounds in 1922 saw the wettest championships ever — a description applying to more than just the weather

years) which guaranteed tickets for every day of the championships. What is now Church Road was formerly a cart track between a lakeside golf course and a cattle farm, destined to accommodate the prime stock of tennis. Somerset Road was just a footpath, and the entire area was an old private park in the process of piecemeal disposal.

In 1922 the new All England Club was a bleak, concrete structure unadorned by today's omnipresent Virginia creeper. In deference to the traditions of Worple Road, where the main court was as name, the appellation was retained at the

new grounds — although it had little logical claim to central status until the four new courts of "North Wimbledon" were used for the first time in 1980. In 1922 the complex consisted of the centre court and 12 others, numbered from 3 to 13. Court 2 was opened in 1923 and Court 1 in 1924.

The first singles champions at the tournament's new home were Australian and French: Gerald Patterson and Suzanne Lenglen. Patterson was the favourite nephew of an operatic soprano, Dame Nellie Melba, whose professional name (later applied to a dessert, a sauce, and a thin variety of toast) commemorated the fact that she

had been born in Melbourne. Patterson hit the ball uncommonly hard and few opponents could ride the storm well enough to exploit his comparatively dodgy backhand. Lenglen's box office appeal was such that queues outside the grounds whiled away the waiting hours by singing a pun: "There's a Lenglen trail a-winding." In 1922 she won the singles and shared both the available doubles titles, without conceding a set in any event. Her enduring renown is based partly on her supreme status as a match-winner, partly on the ballistic images raised by her tennis, and partly on the revolutionary, liberalising influence of her person-

ality and sartorial innovations — colourful bandeaux and elegant but unfashionably short dresses. Unfashionably short, that is, until she made such deviations from the norm fashionable. Her entourage included Ted "Tinning" high society courier and man-about-town, who wrote that "she developed her star status to the point of transforming herself, physically and dresswise, from the ugly duckling of her beginnings to the bird of paradise she became."

Lenglen had an engaging habit of taking an occasional nip from a flask of cognac (or absorbing lumps of cognac-soaked sugar) during changeovers. Which brings us to that unsung hero of British tennis, Randolph Lycett, who was Patterson's ultimate victim in the men's singles. Lycett was a high-stepper who did not always regard drinking champagne as incompatible with playing tennis at Wimbledon.

There is a misconception that British players were eminent in Wimbledon men's singles between the wars. In fact only three reached the final: Lycett (the 1922 runner-up, "Bunny" Austin (runner-up in 1932 and 1938), and Fred Perry, champion in 1934, 1935 and 1936. More over Lycett, although he was born in Birmingham and died in Jersey, was an Anglo-Australian who honed his tennis in Australia and, in 1911, declined an invitation to play for what was then an "Australasian" Davis Cup team.

Lycett shared the Wimbledon men's doubles title in three consecutive years, with as many different partners, and also won the mixed doubles three times, always with Elizabeth Ryan. In 1922 he contested all three finals. But for better or worse his reputation is partly founded on his extraordinary, resilient self-indulgence during a 1921 quarter-final with Zenzo Shimidzu of Japan in the all-comers' singles. The records tell us merely that Shimidzu won 6-3, 9-11, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8. They do not tell us that the match was played on an unusually hot day — and that Lycett, having previously fortified himself with gin, went on court with a bottle of champagne in an ice bucket and imbued with such regularity that eventually, when not reeling about

the court, he took to resting languidly on the grass between shots and sturps. Shimidzu, who observed all this with inscrutable courtesy, was no mug. He had been runner-up to Bill Tilden in the 1920 all-comers' singles. Lycett did well to finish such a match and come so close to winning it, though he may have been unaware of the result until he read the papers next morning. Today we would be thankful for small mercies if a British player, drunk or sober, could play the kind of match Lycett played in the last championships contested at Worple Road.

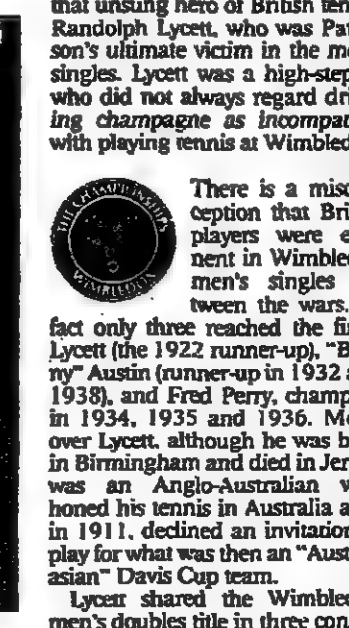
Come Wimbledon 1992, we should remember all that from 70 years ago: the first championships on their present site, the first year without challenge rounds, the tournament that lasted 15 days, Lenglen and Lycett and Dame Nellie Melba's nephew — and cognac and champagne. These days tennis players drink water, in various guises. And it shows.

● Rex Bellamy was tennis correspondent for *The Times* from 1960 to 1989, received nine international awards, and has written eight books.

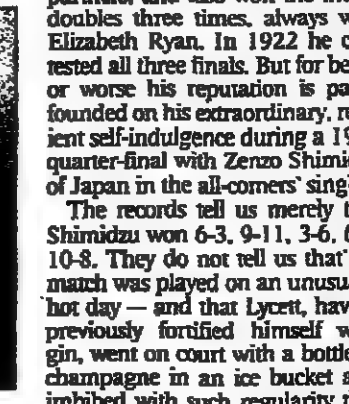
● Don't miss Monday's 16-page colour pull-out guide to Wimbledon 1992, with profiles of the top players and a close look at the five master-strokes of the modern game.



Sustaining spectators and players: the traditional strawberries go down as a ball girl limbers up



Armchair sport: retired veteran commentator Dan Maskell watching tennis from a safer distance



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FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 7



Full and fair and ripe for the picking — **Frances Bissell** shares some of her favourite recipes for cherries

OUT OF TOWN, PAGE 9



Telling the truth about Alice, in the public interest — and a Hampton Court Garden Festival special offer, page 14

PUBS IN PERIL, PAGE 15



Our front-page article on the threat to a British institution brought a heavy mailbag. A selection of your letters appears inside

igent hearing separate noise.

FILM

THE ADJUSTER (18): Azim Egoyan's usual tale of voyeurism, fantasy and displaced persons, visually seductive but hollow. Elias Koteas, Arsinée Khanjian. Metro (071-437 0757).

AUTOBUS: Eric Robson's story of a loveless French youth who hijacks a school bus to impress his girl-friend has funny moments, but not enough. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).



Passionate: Jane March, Tony Leung in *The Lover*

BASIC INSTINCT (18): Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone ride a sordid psycho-sexual rollercoaster. Director, Paul Verhoeven. MGM Baker Street (071-895 9772). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

MEZZANINE (18): Dolly Parton as a chatty Arkansas divorcee who comes to town and hits the big time masquerading as a radio psychologist. Directed by Barbet Kellman. Odeon Kensington (0426 914666). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE FIVE HEARTBEATS (15): Bland but good-natured tale of a black rock 'n' roll group's American journey. Robert Townsend writes, directs and stars with Michael Wright, Tico Wells. Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (15): Psychotic nanny (Rebecca De Mornay) wreaks revenge on a squeaky-clean family. Formula thriller with robust acting. Annabella Sciorra; director, Curtis Hanson. MGM Baker Street (071-895 9772). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865). Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

JOHNNY SUED: Likeable urban fairy tale about a lone innocent (Brad Pitt) in bedlam, discovering love while dreaming hopelessly of success as a pop star. Tom DiCillo directs. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443). Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743). Gains (071-727 4043). Lumiere (071-836 0691). MGM Oxford Street (071-836 0310).

THE LAWYERMAN MAN (15): Pierce Brosnan's computer turn a simpleton (Jeff Fahey) into a cyber-monster. New technology jamboree laid low by a muddled script. From a Stephen King story; director, Brett Leonard. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). Odeon Kensington (0426 914666). Leicester Square (0426 915683). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE LONG DAY CLOSING (12): Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise. With Leigh McCormack, Marjorie Yates. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE LOVER (18): Jean-Jacques Annaud's over-careful, faithfully erotic adaptation of Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiographical novella, about an adolescent girl's discovery of sex and love in Twenties colonial Indo-China. Barbican (071-638 8891). MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/792 7025). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE MAMBO KINGS (15): Snarlingly mounted but simplistic version of Oscar Hijuelos's novel about Cuban musicians in New York. Armand Assante, Antonio Banderas; director, Arne Glimcher. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2722). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

PARADISE: French box-office success, *Le Grand Chemin*, remade as sentimental rural Americana. Writer-director, Mary Agnes Donoghue. With Melanie Lynskey. MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Odeon Kensington (0426 914666). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE PLAYBOYS (12): Love and jealousy in an Irish village in 1957. Strong performances (Albert Finney, Robin Wright, Aidan Quinn), but too much blarney. Director, Gillies MacKinnon. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). Metroland Hill Coronet (071-727 6705). Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353).

STONE COLD (18): Unpleasant action thriller about a cop who infiltrates a biker gang. Director, Craig R. Baxley. MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031). Odeon Marble Arch (0426 914501).

STRAIGHT TALK: Dolly Parton as a chatty Arkansas divorcee who comes to town and hits the big time masquerading as a radio psychologist. Directed by Barbet Kellman. Odeon Kensington (0426 914666). West End (0426 915574). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

VAN GOGH (12): Maurice Pialat's mastery, no-nonsense portrait of the painter's last months. Fine performance from Jacques Dutronc. Minima (071-235 4225). Renelt (071-837 8402).

THEATRE

LONDON

THE BLUE ANGEL: Kelly Hunter and Philip Madoc in Trevor Nunn's intoxicating staging: angel of desire becomes the demon of destruction. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.



Cazenove and Robertson in *The Sound of Music*

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Geraldine James and Paul Freeman now join Michael Byrne. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

DEMIAN: Jimmy Porter 36 years on. Osborne's hero rants and whinges but in a vacuum, and Peter Egan seems too good-natured to be the Angry Old Man. Comedy. Parthenon Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE DYBBUK: Julia Pascal's ground-breaking new version of the famous Yiddish drama, transposed to a ghetto in 1942. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (071-794 0022). Previews Tues, Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; mats Sun, 4pm (June 28: 2pm).

GRAND HOTEL: New York hit (1930s) based on the 1930s film and Vidal's novel. Glitter and glamour in a doomed world. With

Liliane Montevecchi. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-580 9562). Now previewing: Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR: Irresistibly dance-worthy evocation of the joys of Sade's soul music. Philip Ryan's 1987 script has been rewritten for a Young Vic company on top form. Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Hawthorne is a very fine as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's intriguing, slightly puzzling play. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.15pm. 170mins.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Ian Talbot's jolly production, full of rough and tumble and evergreen comedy. Dirsdale Lander plays Bottom. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-486 2431). Wed-next Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Thurs, next Sat, 2.30pm. 165mins.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: All-Australian company in Michael Gow's play set in a tower block's roof garden.

WILLOWHOUSE: Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-680 4065). Previews tonight, 8pm, mat tomorrow, 5pm; opens Tues, 8pm; then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sun, 5pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carping after ego. Excellent revival of Brian Cline's first success. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

SCHIFFEL: THE FLUMBER: Sternheim's satirical comedy about a snobbish vocal quartet who must accept a social inferior (James Saxon) because of his transgressive voice. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7753). Previews Mon, 7.45pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Liz Robertson sings the hit in a lavish new production; with Christopher Cazenove, Liz Robertson and Robin Nedwell. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Previews tonight, opens Mon, 7pm (no eve part for Tues); then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

SPREAD A LITTLE HAPPINESS: Transfer of the King's Head programme of Vivian Ellis's 30 in all, including his from *Bless the Whirlwind*. Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Previews from Tues, 8pm; opens June 29, 7pm.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's stylish RSC production, in London after a triumphal tour. Callous aristocrat, wronged woman; melodrama laced with Wilde's wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (071-430 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

BRADFORD: Barry Rutter's Northern Broadsides company premieres its *Richard III* with the Northern voice for the Bradford Festival. Rutter as crooked Dick. West Yorkshire Transport Museum, Ludlum Street Depot, Mill Lane (0274 752000). Wed-Sat, 7.30pm (one week only).

LEEDS: Gary Bond in a Leeds co-production with the Lyric, Hammersmith, of Ayckbourn's shrewd comedy, *Absent Friends*. West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 4JL. Previews Thurs, 7.30pm; opens next Sat, 8pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVOON: Peter Hall's *Aff's Well That Ends Well*, one of Shakespeare's trickiest plays, for his first production at the Swan. With Richard Johnson, Barbara Jefford. In the main theatre, John Nettles, after 14 years fighting crime on *Jessie*, returns to Stratford to play the tyrant in *The Winter's Tale*. Swan Theatre (0789 295623). Previews from Wed, 7.30pm; opens June 30, 7pm. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens July 1, 7pm.

DANCE

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The company has cut its annual Coliseum season down to one week but is still managing to present five new pieces in a single evening. Robert North's commissioned work, *A Stranger I Came*, is set to music by Francis Schubert; Ben Stevenson's *L* is an expression of gratitude to Liza Minnelli, who helped to save the National Ballet of Washington with a fund-raising performance in 1974. David Parsons contributes two ballets. *The Envelope*, a short and humorous work, and *Sleep Study*, which depicts seven dancers in pyjamas. Also featured is the world premiere of a new work by Kim Brandstrup, *White Nights*, based on a short story by Dostoevsky about unrequited love. On Thursday, ENB presents the London premiere of its new *Choreography*, choreographed by Ben Stevenson. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC1 (071-836 3161). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm.

HAMBURG DANCE COMPANY: One of the highlights of the dance calendar is the world premiere tonight of the first work created for a British company by Merce Cunningham, the American father of post-modern dance. The new piece, *Touchbase*, has music by Michael Pugliese and design by Mark Lancaster, but as usual with Cunningham, the music and design have a purely arbitrary relationship to the dance. All the elements in his work are created independently and only come together on opening night. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-494 5090). Tonight, Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm.

MICHAEL CLARK COMPANY: The one-time *enfant terrible* of British dance is presenting the



Doomed glamour: Liliane Montevecchi in *Grand Hotel*, transferred from Broadway

London premiere of his new work, *Mmm...* (alias *Michael's Modern Masterpiece*), an aggressively charged piece centred on Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. The four dancers are joined by Clark's 68-year-old mother who makes a guest appearance. As remarkable as the choreography is the venue: a non-theatrical warehouse space tucked away behind King's Cross station. King's Cross Depot, off York Way, King's Cross, London N1 (071-494 3780). Tonight, tomorrow, Tues-next Sat, 8.30pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Tamás Várdy conducts the Southampton Symphony in a semi-staged performance combining Mendelssohn's incidental music with highlights from Shakespeare's play. Soloists are Rebecca Evans and Diane Atherton. The actors are Honor Blackman and Freddie Jones. Wilfrid Judd directs. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.45pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Mstislav Rostropovich is the soloist in the world premiere of the cello concerto by Andrzej Panufnik, who died last year. Commissioned by the LSO, this was the last work he completed before his death. The programme for the concert includes the *Symphony No. 10* of the composer's *Symphony No. 10*, and the Cello Concerto by Dvořák. Hugh Wolff conducts. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, 7.45pm.

MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Under the directorship of Charles Dutoit the Quebec-based orchestra has built a reputation as one of North America's finest. As part of the Barbican's "Great Orchestras of the World" series, they perform Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* and the complete version of *De Falla's* ballet score *The Three-Cornered Hat*. They also appear this week in the South Bank's

International Orchestral season, with a programme that includes Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Mon, 7.45pm. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SPIRITFIELDS FESTIVAL: The final week of this year's festival continues the enterprising policy of mixing early music and contemporary work. Remaining highlights include the world premiere of *Golden Moments*, a new work by Dominic Muldowney, commissioned by the festival and performed by Timothy Hugh (cello) and Chi-chi Nwanoku (bass), in a programme that also includes music by Schnittke, Paganini and Reger (Wed, 9pm); and the final concert of the festival, which features the London premiere of *Elis Thaman* by John Tavener, performed together with Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, by the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox (Friday at 7.30pm).

OPERA

LONDON OPERA FESTIVAL: Offerings this second week include *Jules et Jim* (The Silent Twins) a story of twin sisters who share a secret language, based on the novel by Margot Wallace. Words are by Michel Rostain, who also directs. The music, which combines jazz, pop and electronics with live saxophone and percussion, is by James Groudon and Pierre-Alain Jaffrenou. Last performance tonight (The Place, 7.30pm). From Wednesday the Endymion Ensemble and Michael Nyman give four performances of *Nyman's Letters, Riddles and Wires*. This is the world stage premiere of a work originally commissioned for television as part of the Mozart bicentenary celebrations (Shaw Theatre, Wed-Sat, 7.30pm). The festival continues to July 4.

The Place, Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031). Shaw Theatre, Euston Road, NW1 (071-388 1364). Opera Festival (071-413 1428).

LE COQ D'OR: The London Symphony Orchestra presents a concert performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's savagely satirical last opera, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich. The cast includes Bulat Mingaliev, Colleen Gaetano, Noel Espiritu, Melissa Eising and Simon Keenleyside. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

DON PASQUALE: Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's production of Donizetti's comic opera is still going reasonably strong. For this revival, virtuoso veteran Paolo Montarsolo returns in the title role, while Paul Giamatti repeats his silver-toned Ernesto. Judith Howarth sings Monna. Bruno Campanella conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911). Tues, 7.30pm.

ROCK

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL: Despite competition from other festivals in the summer season, Glastonbury looks to have the best line-up this year. It kicks off on Friday with, among others, rave darlings Primal Scream, retro-rockers Teenage Fanclub and the Levellers, without whose hippy waywardness no self-respecting rock festival would be complete. The highlights for Saturday and Sunday include the ethereal folksters Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Alison Moyet, Lou Reed, Van Morrison, The Shamen and Spiritualized. Glastonbury, Somerset, 0272 767 883 or ticket agencies 071-734 8932, 071-379 4444, Fri-next Sun, 10.30am-12.30am.

ELTON JOHN: After his successful gigs with George Michael, the star returns up with Eric Clapton at Wembley after playing solo in Sheffield. Arena, Sheffield (0742 565 656), tomorrow and Mon, 6.30pm.

EVENINGS OUT

ROSE BOY
AUTHOR OF "ROSE"

G I want to see *The Alchemist* at the Barbican because I'd read the play at university. It's about artifice and the theatre, dressing up and acting. Everyone is continually pretending to be somebody else, and there's a lot of stage business: doors opening and shutting and slamming. It's rude and funny. *Jacquot de Nantes* is Agnes Varda's film about her husband, Jacques Demy. It's not the most gripping film, but worth seeing because it's a heartfelt and serious bit of work. I'm looking forward to seeing Michael Clark's dance performance *Mmm...* (*Michael's Modern Masterpiece*) at the King's Cross Depot (071-494 3780). I'm a big fan and have seen everything he's done. 2

SALERDOOMS

MONDAY-THURSDAY: This is the week of the Antiquarian Book Fair, which is open to the public at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly. Wednesday 11am-5pm and Thursday 11am-5pm, and of the London Book Fair which continues at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, WC1, today 10.30am-7pm, Sunday 2-7pm, and Monday 10.30am-7pm. Naturally there are also book sales. Bonhams have books and manuscripts, Monday 11am and 2pm. Sotheby's have Western manuscripts and miniatures, Tuesday 11am; and Bonhams Book Auctions have manuscripts, miniatures and printed books, Thursday 1pm.

Antiquarian Book Fair (071-724 2818): London Book Fair (0763 248400). Bonhams (as above). Sotheby's (as above). Bonhams Book Auctions, 3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1 (071-833 2636).

TUESDAY: Phillips have a contents sale in a Winchester Town House, 13 St Thomas Street, 11am. There is good Regency furniture collected by the owner to match the house - which is also on the market through Hamptons. A French Empire ormolu chandelier could make up to £50,000, and a pair of console tables in the manner of William Kent is estimated at up to £30,000. In London Sotheby's have a sale of continental ceramics and glass including the collection of Germany faience formed by Dr Ragnor Borsum, 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 5602): Sotheby's (as above).

WEDNESDAY: Christie's have clocks and watches including a Blancpain minute repeating perpetual calendar wristwatch in gold up to £45,000. 11am Christie's, 8 King Street, St James', London SW1 (071-839 9060).

WEDNESDAY: The previously unrecorded top section of a Harrogate Staff God beautifully carved from cypress, could make up to £300,000 in Sotheby's trial arts sale, 10.30am Sotheby's (as above).

EXHIBITIONS

WYNDHAM LEWIS: It is not surprising that a figure so combative in the arena of art politics should turn out to be a great war artist. Much more surprising is how much of Lewis's first world war work proves to be suffused with pity and terror. For him the poetry was not, as for Wilfred Owen, entirely in the pity; there is a terrible beauty in the way that man in war becomes a machine. The result is a complexity of response hardly hinted at in Lewis's other work. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (071-416 5000). Daily, 10am-6pm, opens Thurs-October 11.



Machine-like: Plan of War by artist Wyndham Lewis

SAMUEL PALMER: An amazing number of works by Palmer have passed through the hands of Leeger in recent years, and so it seems a sensible way of celebrating the dealer's centenary to assemble 30 of them from public and private collections on both sides of the Atlantic. The works on show date mostly from Palmer's middle and later years, and there are none from the Shoreham period, though two early masterpieces, *The Shearers* and *The Golden Valley*, have been released for the occasion from long term loan to the Tate. In the catalogue Raymond Lester makes a spirited case for the superiority of the late works, and almost convinces.

Leeger, 13 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 3538). Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, opens Wed-July 24.

FLOW FROM THE FAR EAST: So little is widely known in Europe about Korea that it is hard to say how representative the selection of four painters presented at the Barbican is. Dai Won Lee, the oldest, is bright and colourful, clearly shaped by traditional Korean subject matter. Chong Hyun Ha, at the other extreme, goes in for monochromatic paintings with strong emphasis on the qualities of the basic materials. All the evidence of a lively art scene deserving of further exploration. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm, Sun, midday-7.30pm, opens tomorrow-July 22.

DRAWINGS RELATED TO SCULPTURE: The annual appearance of the Munch Old Master dealer Karin Beltinger in London this year consists of 20 drawings somehow related to sculpture, by such as Tintoretto and Salvati as well as by sculptors themselves. These are shown alongside works of European art, mostly sculptural from Trinity Fine Art, the highlights being a superb Lomax enamel casket (c.1200) depicting the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket, and a glittering rococo reliquary made for Henry Cardinal of York, the Henry IX of the Jacobites. Harari and Johns, 12 Duke Street, London SW1 (071-839 7671). Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, opens Wed-July 10.

VIDEO

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Columbia TriStar, PG). Tasty feast of black humour inspired by the 1960s TV series-off from Charles Addams's cartoons. Paul Giamatti as Gomez, Anjelica Huston as the deadpan Morticia, best of all, Christopher Lloyd as an emporer posing as the bald, hollow-eyed Uncle Fester. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. 1991.



"To your illness": Huston in *The Addams Family*

FOUR ADVENTURES OF RENETTE AND MIRABELLE (Artificial Eye, U). Four improvised episodes from the lives of two French girls, the rural Renette and the urban Mirabelle. Delicious deconstruction from Eric Rohmer. 1986.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (Columbia TriStar, PG). The restored version of David Lean's epic painting biography of the desert emperor T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole), with extra footage cut from the original 1962 release, and some re-editing by the director.

THE PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS (IC, 18): Ghetto burglars untap a crazed, evil world when they hunt for gold in their landlord's house. Lively mix of horror, Grimm fairy story, and social tale from the director of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. Wes Craven. Brandon Adams, Everett McGill. 1991.

BOOKINGS

LADY BE GOOD: George and Ira Gershwin's rarely staged musical is being revived by the Open Air Theatre this season with Bernard Cribbins in the cast. Following the London showing it goes nationwide.

Open Air, Regent's Park (071-466 2431), July 15-Sept 8. Orchard, Darford (0322 343333), Sept 15-19. Civic, Darlington (0325 485555), Sept 21-26. Playhouse, Oxford (0865 798600), Sept 28-Oct 3. Arts Centre, Warrack (0303 524524), Oct 5-10. Arts, Cambridge (0223 352000), Oct 12-17. Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 525555), Oct 18-24. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 284888), Oct 26-Oct 31. Grand, Blackpool (0253 283721), Nov 2-7.

THE BLACKPOOL JAZZ FESTIVAL: Blackpool launches its first ever jazz festival, held in the city's Winter Gardens Complex, better known for hosting party-political squabbles. The outstanding line-up makes this one of the highlights of the 1992 jazz calendar with jazz and blues performers B.B. King, Ray Charles, Cab Calloway, Roberta Flack, Nina Simone, George Farnie, Alan Price, Man Wilson and George Melly topping the bill. Bingley, Lancashire. Winter Gardens Complex, Church Street, Blackpool (Box office: 0253 277866), July 9-22. Special hotel packages available: Hotel Hot Jazz Line, 0253 214811.

WOMAN (READING): Among the names headlining this year will be Moll's golden-voiced singer Salfi Karia and the Paris-based singer Angélique Kidjo - her debut single *Baranga* has just been released in Britain. Over 50 names appear on the bill including the Drummers of Burundi, Bheki Mseleku, Yothu Yindi, the Courtney Pine Quintet, Jonathan Richman, Sheila Chandra and Eddi Reader.

Festival Box Office (0225 740444): 0734 591591, July 12-19. *Starlight Express* He £36 (for three days); tickets: £15 (concessions available). Ticket agents: First Call, 071-240 7200; Ticketmaster 071-379 4444.

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER: Michael Crawford takes the spotlight in a showcase of hits from the Lloyd Webber musicals including *Evita*, *Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Starlight Express*. He will be backed by a full symphony orchestra, soloists and choral ensemble. Albert Hall, London SW7 (071-823 9998), June 30-July 5. Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555), July 8. G-Mex, Manchester (061-632 9000), July 9. Empire, Sunderland (091-514 2517), July 10, 11. Playhouse, Edinburgh (021-557 2692), July 13-16. Brighton Centre, Brighton (0273 202881), July 18. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021-780 4138), July 21, 22. Hippodrome, Bristol (0272 299444), July 23, 24.

Film: Geoff Brown, Theatre. Jeremy Kingston, Classical Music and Opera: Ian Brunshi, Rock and Jazz: Stephanie Osborne, Dance: Debra Crane, Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor, Video: Geoff Brown, Bookings: Ian Knight, Salerooms: Huon McKaleu.

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Soap and drugs and rock 'n' roll

Peter Barnard takes a pot shot at The Beatles, drug law enforcement and the selling of the new BBC1 soap, *Eldorado*



THE illustration to this article may lead some readers to think that this column is about The Beatles, who were, as any judge will tell you, a rock and roll band from Liverpool who disbanded as recently as 1969. Or, readers may think it is about Paul McCartney, a former Beatle, a triller of songs and left-handed bass guitarist who shows no sign of disbanding even though he now has sufficient of the folding stuff to restore the Maxwell pension funds to a state of health.

A column about The Beatles? Nothing could be further from the truth. Well, all right: several things could be further from the truth. I am expecting to replace Gary Liner as captain of England: that is further from the truth, if you want to nit-pick. But what with last week's article by Bryan Appleyard in the *Times Saturday Review* and the one by Douglas Adams on the Arts page on Wednesday, you may have had enough of the 25th anniversary of Sgt Pepper's *Lonely Hearts Club Band* and the coincident fiftieth birthday of McCartney. So instead, I shall write about the editor of *The Times* and drugs.

Not that I see why I should avoid writing about The Beatles. This is, after all, a television column and the Beatles have, after all, been all over the television this week, not to mention a whole day of McCartney on BBC Radio 2. Still, I don't want you to be misled.

Then again, not writing about the Beatles is a touch perverse, now I come to think of it. At least I can claim some personal experience. On Wednesday Adams was forced to admit that he had never even heard them live. The shame of it. I, on the other hand saw them at the ABC cinema in Plymouth back in 1960-something. It was an unforgettable occasion. They were absolutely dreadful.

Out of tune? Possibly. I scarcely heard a note. But of course on stage there are distractions, such as kids howling and chucking things at you. On stage you can hardly appear with a rather well-known chap called George Martin, a man who can sit at a console pushing levers up and down so that your songs start to sound as if Mozart, Beethoven, Porter and Berlin had the first names John, Paul, George and Ringo. (I was afraid this would

REVIEW

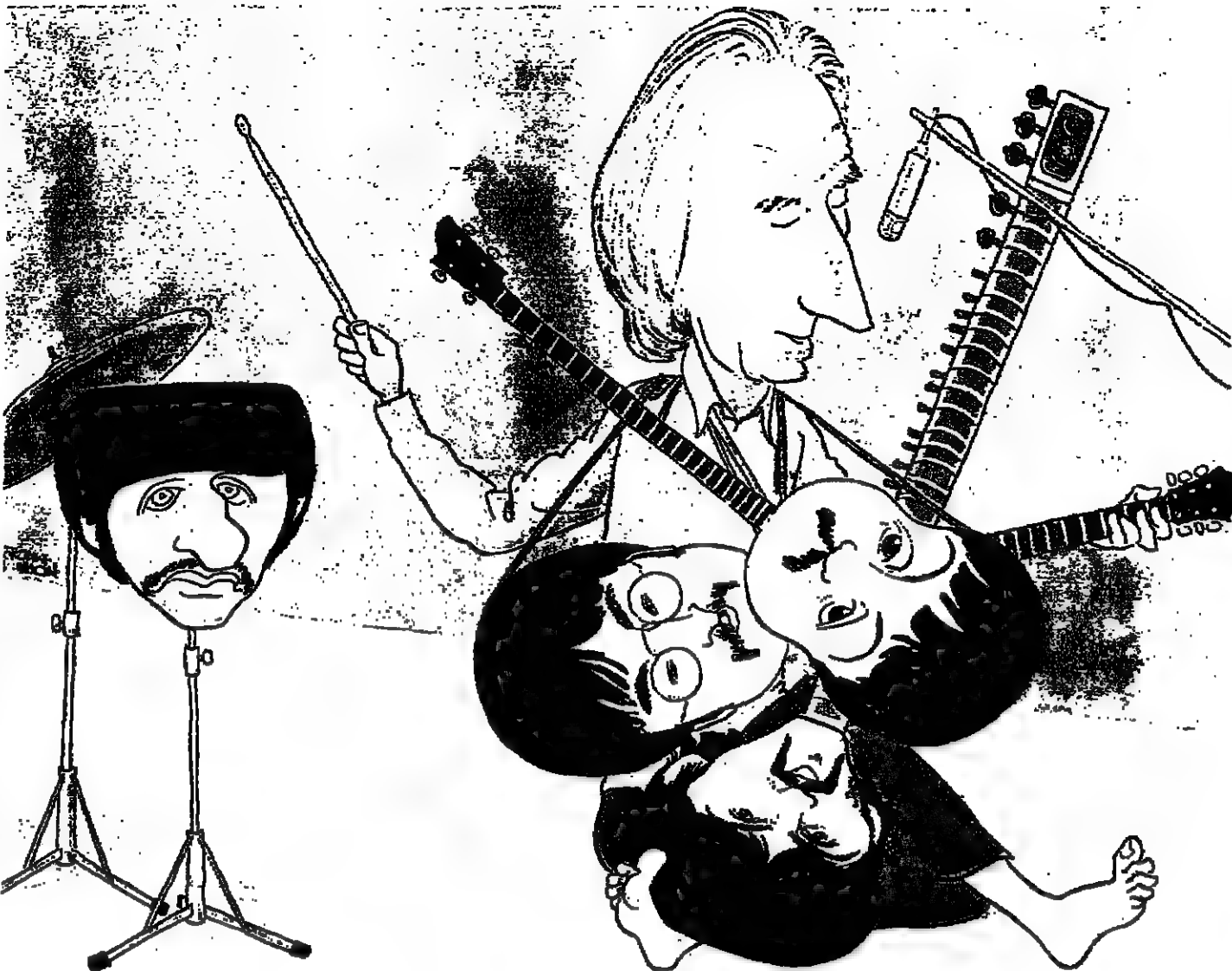
happen: will you settle for The Beatles and the editor of *The Times* and drugs? How very kind; we'll call it a concept column.)

In 24 hours separating 25 years this week we were treated to two views of the British attitude to drugs, in one tangentially and in the other head on. *The South Bank Show* (Sunday, ITV) was a terrific programme about the making of Sgt Pepper, the definitive Beatles album released in 1967. A genuine turning point in popular music, the record was not really a "concept" album, having no real theme, but there was a music hall and circus atmosphere about the thing and the tracks ran together more conjunction than concept.

Sgt Pepper arrived, as the programme showed, at a time when those of us who were of an age with The Beatles were either taking part in, or conscious of, what we were more than happy to describe as a social sea change. It wasn't and we knew it wasn't. Indeed, I only just located the permissive society before it changed into a longer skin, but I discovered what it danced to and as often as not the label said: Lennon-McCartney.

Martin revealed on Sunday that the duo's writing talent was, shall we say, at a formative stage when he met them: "All they could give me was 'Love Me Do'." That their ability expanded to the point where a few of their songs now stand comparison with the best of the century's popular songwriting is due in part to Martin's deeper musical gifts, his knowledge of what works exactly with what. He was, as Ringo said, "the man".

Yet Sgt Pepper should also take some bricks. Martin admitted that, as the making of the record (five months, compared to one day for the first Beatles album, *Please Please Me*) proceeded, he became uneasy that it would appear pretentious. In parts it did, and does. And the album and Martin's key role in it, bears some responsibility for the revealing pop habit of referring not to "tunes" and "songs" but to "tracks" and "records". Stand in any high street record shop and the youngsters are talking about tracks, not songs. Whoever heard of a Cole Porter track? The *Emperor Concerto*? Great record.



George Martin plays The Beatles: it's as if Mozart, Beethoven, Porter and Berlin had the first names John, Paul, George and Ringo

The other interesting revelation of *The South Bank Show* was McCartney and the others talking about drugs. Yes the Beatles used them, but the sort of drugs they used were apparently different to the drugs that are doing serious damage now. They did not write stoned, they wrote and then they got stoned. This was McCartney reluctant to make it seem that the band had a lovely time on drugs or that he and Lennon produced songs while under the influence thereof.

A laudable approach, but the point about the type of drugs that were around is moot. Was it LSD? A bit of a laugh? Harmless? Surely there was heroin and cocaine in the 1960s?

Panorama (Monday, BBC1) had an interesting film about the changed attitudes of some police forces towards drug law enforcement, particularly relating to can-

nabis. On the programme, Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*, repeated the view expressed in an editorial last year that cannabis should be legalised. I happen to agree (oh happy chance), partly because I have long rued the fact that all those hash users of yesteryear seem to be remarkably fit these days, compared with worthy types like me who stuck to nicotine. Well, mostly.

On Merseyside, whence came The Beatles, and in South Yorkshire the police have switched tactics to cautioning cannabis users. Given that catching a person using cannabis requires monumental ineptitude on the part of the user this could be seen as making the best of a bad job: it merely sounds sensible to me.

The policy is likely to spread, but that is a messy way to conduct law enforcement. It is reminiscent of some American states making co-

habitation illegal, and others making it very nearly compulsory. There is a place for unenforceable law, and the place is a dustbin. But we need a national dustbin, not least to dissuade migrant cannabis users away from the roads to South Yorkshire and Merseyside. ("This is AA Roadwatch, there's a line of very happy-looking chappies blocking the M6 at...")

The other highlight of the week was *Eldorado*, which starts next month. Please do not adjust my syntax. *Eldorado* is the new soap which comes to BBC1 on July 6, but this week the publicity trails have started to be screened. They are awful... a man wearing sunglasses walks towards a car, smiling slightly. Cut to a girl wearing sunglasses and not much else, standing on a balcony, smiling slightly. The man looks up at the

girl, smiles slightly more. The girl looks down at the man, and smiles even more enigmatically. End of the trail.

Next trail. Two women sitting in deck chairs are watching a man and some girls at play on a tennis court. They have a conversation. The gist of it is:

"Do you trust Pierre?"

"Why?"

"Well, you know, those girls..."

"Yes, of course."

Cut.

Er... yes, of course. Sex, sun and slightly smiling, a recipe for success if ever I heard one.

Usually reliable sources say that *Eldorado*, which is to replace *Wogan*, will be a ground-breaking, blockbusting soap. We should not judge a programme by its trails, said the source. Said trails are meant to titillate, what the appetite. I believe him. I just think... well, does George Martin do trails?

PREVIEW

● European football championship (tomorrow, BBC1 and ITV, 6.45pm; Monday, BBC1 and ITV, 7pm)

Just in case there is any confusion resulting from the "alternative schedules" in the listings magazines, here is a clarification.

The semi-finals to be shown tomorrow and Monday evenings will each end after 90 minutes if one team has more goals than the other. If not, there will be half an hour of extra time. If they are still level, there will be a penalty shoot-out. If they are still level, a panel of Swedish handballers will judge the teams' styles as to ease of handling in the penalty area. If the panel is split, the team with the highest number of passes wins - that is the difference between football and Mustermind.

Viewers who hate football need not worry: there is Wimbledon tennis, the US Open golf and Test cricket next week. Viewers who hate sport are beyond help.

● Without Walls Special: This is Tomorrow

(tomorrow, Channel 4, 8.30pm) Sunday's best alternative to sport is a documentary on popular culture which focuses on Bryan Ferry's journey from art student at Newcastle University to pop star with (and without) Roxy Music. Ferry's tutor was Richard Hamilton, the so-called father of pop, whose views on art and its links to popular culture are thought-provoking.

● East Enders (Tuesday and Thursday, BBC1, 7.30pm)

If marriage is a fate worse than death, trust *EastEnders* to squeeze both into the same week. On Tuesday Gill marries Mark and on Thursday Gill dies of Aids. (Dear that, *Eldorado*.) But *EastEnders*, long accused of being overly dramatic, handles the Aids issue well, the demise of Gill with aplomb.

● Fighting Back (Wednesday, BBC1, 7.30pm)

This prime-time slot goes to a ten-part series of celebrity interviews by Lynn Redgrave, who is recovering from bulimia, the eating disorder. On Wednesday she talks to Mike Nolan of Bucks Fizz, who suffered severe head injuries after a car crash.

● CIA: Berlin Cowboys (Wednesday, BBC1, 9.30pm)

I worked in Washington. I formed the view that CIA contacts talked a lot without saying all that much. Hopefully they open up more in this six-part documentary, which uses dramatic reconstruction as its principal device. The case histories are necessarily dated, but new information is promised.

P.B.

Politics and the pop-star

Rear Window shows there is more to a Brazilian singer than his voice

You have probably never heard of Chico Buarque but the chances are that you will have heard at least some of his music. His most famous hit, *A Banda*, stormed its way to the top of the 1960s charts around the world. This week's edition of *Rear Window*, Channel 4's international arts strand (Tuesday, 9pm), includes a black-and-white clip of Buarque performing *A Banda*. You will recognise the tune. However, the programme reveals that there is much more to Buarque than meets the eye. He is not only a Brazilian pop-star with the looks to match but an avant-garde dramatist, a political agitator, a writer of cinematic screenplays, an exile who came home, an adapter of Euripides and John Gay, an exponent of the bossa nova, a football player and now a novelist: nothing less than a Rio-naissance man.

Alex Anderson's film takes its title, *Turbulent Landscapes*, from Buarque's first novel, *Estorvo*, which will be published in this country on October 10. "The Portuguese word is not easy to translate," says Liz Calder, editorial director of Bloomsbury. "The epigraph Chico wrote for the novel attempts to explain the meaning of the term. The words resound and rebound off it. I suppose it is a poem." Here is the epigraph: "Turbulent, turbulent, turbulence, disturbance, perturbation, intruder, swirl, stir, extricate, turpitude, stupor, torpor, tomado, tremor, tumult, multitude, mudslide, mutable, trouble, turmoil." In the end the publishers have decided on *Turbulence*.

Ms Calder describes the novel as "a day in a man's life when everything that he's known changes dramatically. It's as if he is falling off a cliff. It's an exercise in paranoia and a picture of modern Rio." She discovered Buarque while living in Brazil in the 1960s. "He's been quite an important

part of my life since then, a hero of mine. I kept up with him through friends. When one of them told me Chico had written a book I was determined to publish it."

When Ms Calder asked Peter Bush to translate *Estorvo*, he suggested that Buarque would be an ideal subject for *Rear Window*. He was right. Brazil, and in particular Rio de Janeiro, makes a superb location for a documentary. Not only does the peculiar topography provide a dramatic backdrop, but it also forces the rich and poor to live cheek by jowl. The gulf between poverty and plutocracy is wider in Rio than almost anywhere else on Earth. The high-security condos where 2 per cent of the population wallow in luxury are literally on the doorsteps of the favelas, where two million souls endure a shum existence. Buarque's novel reflects this.

"Many people do not leave their condominium at all," Mr Bush says. "Buarque highlights the dangers of such self-containment, of such enforced intimacy, by letting the narrator harbour sexual thoughts about his own sister. The Brazil he presented has been permeated and perverted by Western values. No names are mentioned in the novel - except that of a single service station - but there is no doubt that it takes place in Buarque's mother country. There is a



Chico Buarque: "The world is a complicated place"

certain bitter humour in the fact that when the narrator makes a nostalgic trip back to the scene of his idyllic childhood he discovers that the beautiful countryside has been invaded by dope peddlers and video games.

"I didn't want to write a metaphor of Brazil," Buarque says. "It just came out that way." *Estorvo* is not just relevant to Latin America. Mr Bush says. "Everybody can identify with the protagonist when he says that, walking through the streets of a strange city, your destiny is locked up in your suitcase. You and it could get lost or be set upon."

Turbulent Landscapes approaches Buarque as a songwriter first and foremost. Although apparently "cheerful and pretty", the music deals with "confused and violent" lives.

Personal biography and national history are shown to be inextricably entwined. The cultural renaissance of the 1950s which created the theatre of Augusto Boal and the architecture of Oscar Niemeyer - as well as cinema novo - prompted Buarque to study architecture. He dropped out to pursue a musical career but his 1968 play *Roda Viva* - in which the anarchic hero splattered the audience with the blood from a lamb's liver - was the sort of agitprop which prompted the military to clamp down in 1969. Buarque went into exile in Italy but later returned to write songs that ingeniously duped the censors.

Turbulent Landscapes is the portrait of an attractive, complex artist doing his best to interpret his life. "The world is a complicated place," Buarque says, "and by trying to understand it I've become complicated myself."

MARK SANDERSON

Dream formula keeps viewers happy

The *Cosby* Show's clean family humour is a remarkable success

THE man millions of teenagers in Britain would secretly like to be their father, Bill Cosby, is back on television tomorrow (Channel 4, 6.30pm). Not Cosby exactly, but the character he plays in his show, hip, huggable Cliff Huxtable, gynaecologist, husband of pretty, bright lawyer and dad to impetuous decent, if daffy, kids. Their British counterparts would like to talk through their problems with him. They reckon he would listen, at least.

Cosby's triumph, the show's strength, is that the Huxtables are only coincidentally black. For this is idealised middle-class New York life, with cool jokes, an occasional funky dance and warm smiles. You can argue that it is not real life - especially not in the year of the Los Angeles riots - and 54-year-old Cosby would agree. He would argue that he has been striving to educate. He must know something because he has kept this



Painting a picture of American life: Raven Symone as Olivia

family comedy (which he partly owns) wildly successful in the United States and mildly successful here for seven seasons. The show has been ranked the US number one more times than any other series, received three Emmys, the Humanitas Prize and numerous critics' awards. It

has made him rich and saved NBC after a ten-year trouncing by its rival network. *The Cosby Show* is old-style: simple domestic dramas easily solved and pointing morals such as Honour Thy Mom and Dad. But the style is sharp, the tone is often bitter-sweet and the laughs come

easily, especially to younger viewers. They root for the Huxtable children, who are sure to turn out as happy and clever as Cliff and his wife Clair (Phylicia Rashad).

There have already been two spin-offs involving Huxtable teenagers, and a new character, 17-year-old cousin Pam (Erika Alexander), from a poor area of Brooklyn, is due to join the family shortly.

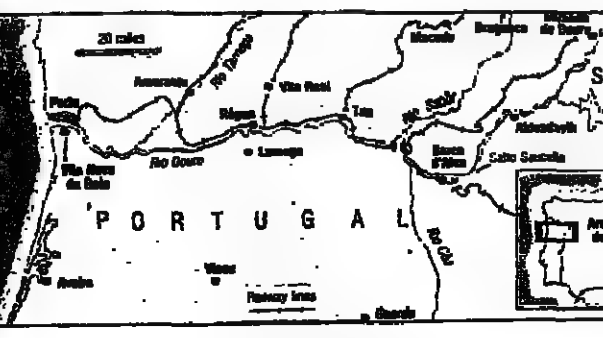
This will be the last season of Cliff's classy act (Cosby is now the host of a revamped 1950s game show, *You Bet Your Life*, to be seen here in the autumn).

Stand by for children jokes in the first episode, as Cliff and Clair at the end of the school holidays find little Olivia (Raven Symone) hoping to learn poker and 12-year-old Rudy (Keshia Knight Pullman) refusing to start the term because she hasn't developed a bust. As Cosby says, "Yo, chill out. Why don't you?"

HILARY KINGSLEY

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Benedict Nightingale reviews John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*, at the Royal Court Theatre

Questions from a dark stranger

If you have not been wintering in Upper Volta or summering in Ulan Bator you will presumably know by now that John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* is loosely based on fact. A young black conman did, indeed, talk his way into the apartments of the kind of rich, sophisticated New Yorkers who hire Cerberus to guard them, and won their trust by claiming to be the son of Sidney Poitier. Out of that suggestive story, told him at a dinner party, Guare fashioned one of the most successful American plays of recent times, a piece that sends up Fifth Avenue liberals and their children, celebrates the imagination, deplores the divisions of the contemporary world, and asks rueful questions about human value.

That would seem enough to justify the play's arrival at the Royal Court, especially as Stockard Channing once again brings her subtle strengths to the role she created at Lincoln Center in 1990. Ouisa, as she is called, is married to Paul Shelley's Flan, an art-dealer who has all but forgotten that he once prized Cézanne for more than making him a killing in Tokyo. Suddenly one of the half-friendly, half-mercenary dinner parties in which she and he specialise is interrupted by the appearance of a bleeding black man. He has been mugged; he knows their children at Harvard; he is Paul Poitier, the actor's son. So he says with eloquence and charm, and, until

they find he has somehow inveigled a hustler into the bed they lend him, they fully believe him. Other wealthy Manhattan gulls enthusiastically follow their lead.

Guare's first achievement is satirical. This is a world of dubious deals and enlightened opinions about, for instance, the coming revolution in South Africa. The arrival of a personable black of impeccable pedigree fills everybody with astonished delight. But in their delusion they mentally transform the intruder into a would-be murderer and a "fucking black kid crack addict". Nor do the children emerge more creditably than the parents they then proceed to assault with accusations of racism, McCarthyism and with shrill, spoiled yells of "you cretin, you creep, no wonder mom left you".

This is lively, funny stuff; and then the play darkens and, to some extent, deepens. Paul turns up in Central Park, now claiming that Flan is his father, and driving to suicide a callow out-of-towner he robs of his savings and seduces. Yet, as Guare sees it, the destruction is inadvertent and the conman far from vicious. We never learn Paul's last name, still less that of his real father. He is an example of rootlessness and ghetto anonymity: a sort of male Eliza Doolittle, sensitive and smart, in search of identity, home, self-improvement and, perhaps, love.

The danger of sentimentality is obvious and not altogether avoided



Ingenuous yet wry: Stockard Channing as Ouisa brings her strengths to the role she created in 1990

even by Phyllida Lloyd's cast, which proves as energetic as Guare's punchy, freewheeling script. Adrian Lester's Paul, intense and winsome, should perhaps bring more hunger and more menace to the flashback in which we briefly meet his pet Higgins. But Stockard Channing is as strong as she could be, with her ingenious yet wry grins and, after she has recovered from being tricked, her gritty concern for the trickster. How many actresses in this country

are capable one moment of sly comedy, the next of open, unaffected emotion?

Channing it is who explains the tide. Every person in the world could meet every other person if only he knew the six people whose knowledge of each other forms a chain linking them. If one of Guare's overriding ideas is the power and misuse of the imagination — mentioned as well as embodied by Paul — another is the fragmentation of the human family

and the individual psyche. Mark Thompson's set, with its receding doorways-within-doorways, seems awkwardly abstract at times, but the giant, spinning Kandinsky seen at the start makes itself felt. Ouisa is not the only one whose life, as she says, has "colour without structure".

This is cerebral stuff, imposed a bit self-consciously on the story. For most people, the story, plot and action will be revelation enough. This is one of the most absorbing evenings in town.

Gimmicks aplenty, but little substance

And still they come: a romp of Rosalinds, a jabber of Jacques's, an oomph (or, sometimes, an ooze) of Orlando. This is the fourth *As You Like It* I have had cause to review since December, which seems to me pretty good going for a play whose title Shaw suggested was a sly sneer, directed by Shakespeare at his text and the groundlings to whom it pertained.

I am no wiser about the reasons for the play's burgeoning popularity after seeing Maria Aitken's production, which is the most eccentric to date, quicker even than the high-camp version Cheek by Jowl recently brought to London. Her conceit is to frame the action within a movie that is being shot in a garden like that (as she suggests in the programme) at Lord Berners's Faringdon House in the Thirties. "The ideas that energise the play," she explains, "ideas of the real and the fantastic, of romance and detachment, of the artificial and the natural, are all central to the business of filmmaking."

By the same token *Antony and Cleopatra*, being a warning against getting emotionally overheated and morally charred, could be set in a

THEATRE

As You Like It
Open Air,
Regent's Park

kitchen. Certainly, Aitken's analogy seems more strained than illuminating. But it brings onto the Regent's Park sward plenty of cameras, lamps and sound-booms, along with bustling technicians, a make-up girl, and a scattering of upper-crust spectators and champagne picnickers. The director, dressed as for a game of polo, sits grandly in his moving scaffolding, then climbs down to take the role of Jacques, a character Aitken describes as a kind of pristine Korda, "full of the whimsical certainties of that breed".

It is nipping to point out that directors usually shout "action" more than once every quarter-hour or so, that indoor scenes are not often shot outside, that even in the Thirties locations changed, and that the filming of a period play should stop when planes pass overhead? Probably. But such cute additions as a speech repeated in close-up, or a short



Oliver Parker, Sarah-Jane Holm and Cathryn Harrison

scene run backwards, serve only to emphasise that this is less a re-interpretation, more a gratuitous gimmick. Indeed, Aitken simply forgets the filmmaking for much of the second half — to the benefit of what, behind it all, is actually a brisk, plain-sailing and un-gimmicky production.

A theatre whose ceiling is the ozone layer is not friendly to subtlety or to larynxes, which may explain why Oliver Parker's Orlando sounds so harsh and, at times, Cathryn Harrison's Rosalind so shrill. Yet the former is attractive enough and, once she has renounced the displeasing leer she brings to her first scene, the latter is something more: a bright, sharp girl who slogs nimbly into the role of Arden's Arful Dodger. She could,

though, learn something about passion from Anna Patrick, the most lovelorn Phebe I can recall. Sarah-Jane Holm is Celia.

John Kane's silly-ass Touchstone has his moments; but the evening's performance is the transformed director, Jacques, of Bette Bourne, the erstwhile leader of the gender-challenging Bloolips troupe. With his black wig, white fur coat and precious manner, he might be a blend of a Restoration fop, a polar bear and something from *La Cage aux Folles*, but his raddled face and hurt looks add a darker dimension. This Jacques indeed has "a melancholy of mine own", private, lonely, gay and wretched.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Caught in the bluff

THEATRE

Moll Cutpurse
Drill Hall

Nick Stafford wrote the notably effective *Snow Queen* at the Young Vic last Christmas. The variations on a Jacobean theme at the Drill Hall, however, come into that tiresome category, quasi-historical fantasy, the superficial period touches interspersed with knowing nudges in the modern spectators' ribs. The result is like a chapter from a more ponderous *1606 and All That*.

The author Thomas Middleton is depicted in mid-life crisis, both professionally and personally. "I am pregnant with words and no one to speak 'em," he complains. His writer's block is compounded by a stale marriage, and it comes as no surprise, especially at this venue, to find him falling for a handsome criminal with the experienced air of an inveterate cottager.

The creative sluice-gates are opened by Middleton's encounter with Moll Cutpurse, the real character who would inspire his play *The Roaring Girl*. Clad in men's attire, she was a swaggering virago well known in the Jacobean underworld. This play portrays her as concentrating on receiving and laundering stolen goods, considering retirement because of failing eyesight, and falling in love with a country girl in the service of a villainous lord.

Already the lack of background to the characters is apparent — Middleton's marriage, the maid-servant's rural antecedents, Moll's apparent emotional self-containment until now. The blackamoor thief is better served and Jim Findley brings authority to an aspiring actor, lamenting the tendency of white thespians to

black up as Othello while a genuinely black player languishes unemployed.

The plot concerns double-crossing, bluff and double bluff, centred on the constant swapping of a bag of real money for counterfeit coins. The juggling of the cash between characters in various stages of awareness, innocence and disingenuousness becomes wearisome, as does the language's absentminded nod towards an archaic style, not helped by the constant confusion of hanged with hung (chiefly, one suspects, to get in a joke about an executed felon being well-hung).

Simon Deacon's music has a jolly chug that the play itself never quite achieves. Peter Shore is a fly little Middleton, with camp just below the surface, and Janice McKenzie is a confident Moll, whose change of heart is convincing. Plot details tend to get lost in the maid's unclear diction; and Helen White's direction could do more to sharpen the focus and clarify the writing.

MARTIN HOYLE

On the wild side

CONCERT

Philharmonia/
Slatkin
Festival Hall

Libel laws were invoked by a colleague writing here in 1984 against giving an opinion on Dave Heath's music. Eight years on, the 36-year-old Mancunian, with no formal training in composition, has no need of protection against a view of his latest work. It is crude but diverting in an eclectic mix of Debussy, Gershwin, honest jazz and thumping disco.

Cry From The Wild, subtitled Flute Concerto No 1 (No 2 is shortly to be premiered in Scotland), was taken up and introduced here by James Galway. He had first played it in Birmingham last Sunday, also with Leonard Slatkin conducting the Philharmonia, which commissioned it. "The piece is wild and free so don't hold back — lay into it," is Heath's instruction to the players in the score. One can soon hear why.

Despite a percussion department that lists a rain-machine and thunder-sheet among its ingredients, there is more to be heard than sound-effects, even if a lot of it might be Galway practising his scales. Lyrical music in the slower sections of a large (almost 40-minute) single movement, and other passages more lightly scored (as with a sparkling trio of solo

flute and both orchestral flutes) are among some disarming passages.

A stricter control of form in relation to content would be an advantage, pruning the rhapsodic excess and focusing more clearly on the musical invention, which brought a *tour de force* of virtuosity from the soloist and secure orchestral support.

Slatkin's enthusiasm for English music found an unusual outlet in *Summer*, the short but beautifully evocative tone-poem that brought Frank Bridge in 1915 surprisingly close to Delius. It renewed a wish that more of Bridge's music might be featured. Later, Schubert's Ninth Symphony became too relaxed in the inner movements, but displayed the orchestra's ensemble, unfazed even when a canopy light noisily exploded directly above the players.

NOEL GOODWIN

Singularly ordinary

ROCK RECORDS



Elton John: bouffant?

Since he last released an album of new material — *Sleeping with the Past*, in 1989 — Elton John has been canonised. Seeing him emerge from the deluge of Brit and Grammy awards, triumphal biographies and television profiles, greatest hits compilations, boxed-set retrospectives, multi-artist tributes and charity spectaculars, it is difficult to spot where his latest implausible bouffant ends and the halo begins.

Rather, like Eric Clapton, who in 1987 underwent a similar process of beatification in 1987, the experience seems to have impaired John's judgement and sapped his creative will, and his new album, *The One* (RCA 512 360-2), finds him ploughing a drag, middle-of-the-road furrow that has already been well turned by artists such as Chris De Burgh and Cliff Richard.

The album is overloaded with dirge-like ballads, from the plodding opener "Simple Life" to the mawkish bludge of "The Last Song". Producer Chris Thomas constantly over-eggs the pudding and the pedestrian arrangements are larded with cannon-shot snare sounds, synthesized strings, echoing heavenly choirs and unnecessary phasing effects which turn a rich mix into a glutinous sludge.

Even perkier numbers such as "Sweat It Out" and the slightly countrified "White-wash County" lack spark and soul. Frankly, there are more signs of life in the singer's current advertising jingle on behalf of Diet Coke.

Only three tracks (out of the 11) buck the bland and mediocre trend. "Understanding Women" is saved by the piquant guitar soloing of Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, although not before Bernie Taupin's lyric has thrown up the creaking couplet "Don't judge this picture by the frame/Every man is not the same". Similarly, "Runaway Train", a duet with Eric Clapton, benefits from the bluesy undercurrent afforded by Clapton's singing and playing.

Left to their own devices, John and Taupin's best joint effort is "The North", a simple, resonant tune with an affecting lyric, which charts the decline of England's industrial heartland.

Otherwise *The One* is about as gripping as a snapped rubber band. I would recommend the latter.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Revealed: Truman Capote a cheat

Joe Fox was astounded. On his desk was a manuscript bearing the name of Truman Capote. Two months before, Capote had promised a surprise. As Capote's long-suffering editor at Random House, Fox had grown weary of his endless promises. Now Capote had delivered a book to rank with his masterpiece *In Cold Blood*.

The lies of Truman Capote, in The Sunday Times Magazine tomorrow



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Where to buy the best fish and tips

People travel miles to buy fresh seafood at Abergavenny. The reason is a shop thriving on old-fashioned quality and service, Deirdre McQuillan says

Tuesday is market day in Abergavenny. People still come up from The Valleys for an outing, strolling around town and inspecting the livestock put up for auction. Today small numbers come in cars in place of the great crowds that used to sweep off the trains and fill the streets. Things change and not always for the better — the main station is now two miles away. But whereas a generation ago a quarter pint of cockles or a few dried up shrimps to eat as you wandered was considered luxury, modern trippers can buy Cawest oysters or, if they cared to order beforehand, some spiny sea urchins cut in half so that the rich roe can be picked out.

The source of these good things is Vin Sullivan in the high street, an extraordinary enterprise and a source of pride to the town. Vin Sullivan is a shop that sells local game and good poultry from France and Britain, but most especially fish. There are 40 to 50 species offered every day. These include wild Welsh and Scotch salmon, firm queen scallops, whole bonito and tiny squid. Nearly all the flat fish are on sale, from megrims to perfect young turbot 2ft long that were landed in Grimsby the day before. Red snappers and grey mullet gleam from the ice.

Vin Sullivan smells just as a fishmonger's shop should, that is of almost nothing. Perhaps a slight sea odour carried 60 miles inland. A carved blackboard in the street advertises the day's attractions. The interior has just been refitted with a green floor, wooden ceiling and gleaming steel and glass cabinets. Wags are always wanting to buy and fry the fancy goldfish that swim in a tank near the window.

The fish for sale are dis-



Pride of Abergavenny: outside the Vin Sullivan shop

played in an orderly rather than artful way on an L-shaped steel counter that runs the whole length of the shop. Buying big, exotic fish that no one really wants in order to make a good window display is not Vin Sullivan's way of operating. Each morning the counter is packed with 100lb of ice made by the shop's machine in small, smooth shapes that will not bruise the tender flesh of the Dover sole.

Behind the fishmongers Sam Milburn, Lyn Williams and Maggie Chapman, wearing green aprons and waiting to explain the intricacies of names and flavours, and to fillet out the bones.

This business of names has become even more complicated recently because the government has decided it would be a good thing for each fish only to go by one name all round the country. So the poor old rock salmon, whose pretensions never fooled anyone, is now officially the huss, although it is actually dog fish, a small relation of the

shark. "Huss (Rock Salmon) £1.98" is how it is labelled at Vin Sullivan, where the staff look forward to learning whether the sardine will become a pilchard or the pilchard be rejuvenated as a sardine. Either name describes the same fish at a different age.

"Megrim is not the same as witch," Mrs Chapman explains, holding up a fillet for a customer. "It is a plainer, drier fish. This is just up from the south coast and reasonably priced, but it tastes best fried. What did you have in mind?" Set ideas tend to vanish.

There are plump shining sea bass at an incredible £4.80 a pound (roughly half the London price), and grey hake with bright red gills that show they are not long out of the water. The bass are farmed and air-freighted from California, hence the price. The hake, which normally goes straight to Spanish markets, is a traditional favourite of the southern Welsh, too. When a haul is landed in British or Irish ports the agents phone Abergavenny, because the shop and its customers will pay realistic prices.

According to Mr Milburn, who runs the enterprise, many shoppers walk in to Vin Sullivan and leave with a fish they hardly know. But others are happy to spend half an hour asking questions, then buy the usual plaice, haddock or cod. "The other day someone wanted cod, looked horrified when I lifted the fish up to cut a steak, then asked, 'Will it turn yellow as it cooks?'" The opposite extreme are those talented cooks who place orders for bony rascals to go in the bouillabaisse, eels and shellfish bought live to kill at home, and fashionable John Dory for dinner parties. With a few days' notice Vin Sullivan

King of the castle cod steaks
Ingredients per person:
1 Box cod steak, skinned if preferred
squeeze of fresh lemon juice
1/2 clove garlic
1oz butter
2oz Caerphilly cheese, grated
2oz fresh white breadcrumbs
1oz freshly chopped parsley

Lightly butter an ovenproof dish. Put in fish and season with freshly ground pepper and salt and a squeeze of lemon juice. Mash garlic to a paste, mix with breadcrumbs, cheese and parsley, pile on top of fish and bake in a hot oven for 20-30 minutes.

can supply any fish or shellfish the best restaurants might have. Enthusiasts drive from Cardiff, Birmingham and Bristol.

A lot of money has moved into Abergavenny as managers buy up farmhouses and cottages. One immaculately dressed woman calls in with her little girl to thank Mr Milburn for poaching and dressing three salmon for her buffet last week. Little old ladies buy fish for themselves and a bit for the cat. And a family of day-trippers are excited to find they can get the tuna and swordfish tasted on Mediterranean holidays, and take it home for tea.

Everyone is treated with friendly patience that extends to cleaning the tiny gus out of sardines and loosing fish kettles or recipe books. The staff, who are predominantly female, have a graceful way of holding up a fish so that a purchaser can take a good look. To those who ask, the fish is offered across the counter so its flesh can be felt and gills inspected.

Mr Milburn fears this breaks our new, draconian hygiene rules. What doesn't? There is a danger that these laws will only be satisfied when customer, assistant and food are separately vacuum-packed and held at a temperature of less than 5C. They are already making the working lives of food specialists, who know perfectly well how to sell their goods safely and in peak condition, unnecessarily miserable.

Vin Sullivan used to be located a few doors down the high street. John Sullivan, who is the son of the late Vin and a loquacious, laughing character, says the thought of today's regulations being app-



Catch of the day: Tony Summers, Margaret Chapman and Sam Milburn among the display of up to 50 different species

lied to the old premises is not funny. "The fish was gutted in a converted corridor, every bit of floor space was crowded with fruit and vegetables, there was game hanging out the back. But the chefs I supplied out of the old place were some of the best judges of quality in the country."

John Sullivan is the main buyer. His imagination and acumen turned his father's old-fashioned game and fish shop into a restaurant supply business known throughout

Britain. The scheme took off when an Italian called Franco Taruschio took over The Walnut Tree Inn at nearby Llandewi Skirrid and began cooking his own food, now so famous. "Franco would come and ask me could I find this and could I buy that for him?" Mr Sullivan says. "I liked the challenge and when I succeeded other restaurants heard about it and started phoning me. I learnt a lot from Franco."

It is the trade Mr Sullivan

does buying fish directly from the ports and selling to restaurants that enables his shop to keep such high standards. Until 1984 callers at the old shop could buy anything supplied to the trade: tropical fruits, salad leaves, cheeses straight from France, sucking pigs and wonderful ham. This was the place where Pamela, Lady Harlech, the journalist and producer, said she wanted to go to if able to choose her own heaven.

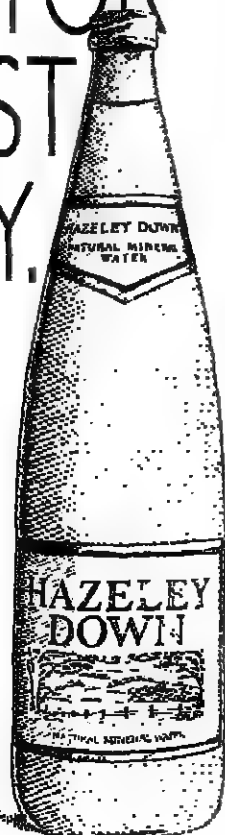
"We had to get a proper

warehouse and depot out of the old town centre, and then it became difficult to deal in half a pound of this and a few ounces of that for the public," Mr Sullivan says. "I took a decision to specialise and return to the old poultry, game and fish shop and to try to run that really well."

● Vin Sullivan, 4 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny (0873 856959). Open 9am-5pm. Mon-Sat.

● From today, Jonathan Meades' column will appear in the Saturday Review

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ENTERTAINING
AT HOME
Angela Fox



If I've got a lot of people coming I plan extremely carefully. Edward recently turned 55, so I suppose I must admit, mustn't I, that I've been doing this sort of thing for nearly 60 years. And if people don't like my food, they can do the other thing.

Except they do seem to like it. Especially men. Men love puddings, so I make lots of soufflés, apple charlottes and, at Christmas time, home-made puddings and mince pies. I'm particularly good on cold soufflés — in fact, my cold chocolate soufflé is probably the best you'll ever eat. I suppose I'm what they call trad, aren't I? Certainly I've never possessed a wok, and as for a microwave, never.

I wouldn't say I'm a good cook, but I always make sure my food is very fresh, very hot and beautifully cooked. So I shop around. I go to local farms where I'm told I'm buying meat that hasn't got hormones and antibiotics in it. I buy very new-laid eggs.

I'm mad on fresh vegetables. Although nowadays I live in a small house in Sussex, I do have a big kitchen garden and a nice gardener called Ken Chambers, who's worked for me for years. So we always have our own vegetables.

I find the absolute maximum number for sitting down at the table and enjoying themselves is eight. The table is always beautifully laid — I love good linen and silver.

In the summer I invite lots of people because we can eat in the garden. There'll perhaps be a cold collation — a whole salmon, some cold chicken, home-baked ham which I don't even bother to carve. I say to people, "If you want some ham, you carve it." We're enormously informal and people feel relaxed.

Of course, I couldn't do all this on my own. I'm terribly spoilt because I have wonderful friends who work for me — I do hate that expression. "They work for me," and always try to say "We work together." Mary's been with me for 40 years. You just couldn't have as many people here as I do unless you've got a saint working for you.

The standard of food is good. Good roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, lovely vegetables, a pudding and cheese. Plenty of wine, of course. I try not to have grand wines.

My sons and their families visit all the time. A lot of theatre people, too — Maggie Smith and her husband are often here. Lots of writers come from America, people from France, people whom perhaps I knew when my husband was alive because he was so much a figure of the theatre.

My aim always is to get people together, not so much because of their rank, but

because I hope they will strike up some sort of bond. Once in a blue moon it goes wrong. But because I've always taken as much trouble over mixing people as mixing the pud, it's nearly always riotous.

I don't think I'm a snob — but of course I am — but there are certain things I don't like. I don't like people who drink too much — they don't fit in — and although people can smoke if they want to, I'd much rather they didn't.

I love keeping open house. There's this linking of generations. My friends take my family on — my family takes my friends on. We don't expect people to be saints, but we do like them to be first-class at what they do, or to be first-class people, however simple and unknown. So there are nearly always people here who are far, far cleverer than I. It's so stimulating and interesting — it's my joy in life. After all, when you're as old as I am, you die if you don't meet young, new and different people all the time.

Cold chocolate soufflé
(serves 8)
2x100g slabs of Chochoir Menier
8 eggs

Melt the chocolate over a low heat, preferably using a double saucepan. Separate eggs and beat the yolks into the chocolate mixture away from heat. Whisk the egg whites stiffly and fold carefully into the chocolate mixture. Pour into a dish. Refrigerate. Decorate with whipped cream if desired.

● Angela Fox is the widow of impresario Robin Fox and mother of Edward, James and Robert. She has written two books, and is working on a novel.
● Interview by Paddy Burt.

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Wild one tops the catch

LAST year the catch of wild salmon in Scotland's rivers was the lowest since records began. The Salmon and Trout Association is blaming the decline on the commercial fishery for sand eels, on which the young salmon feed before returning to their rivers. Why are the sand eels being fished anyway? To feed intensively kept pigs and poultry — and farmed salmon.

While wild salmon are in drastic decline, the salmon farming industry is in a desperate plight because it insists on producing too much of the stuff, at 4.5 tonnes of sand eels to every tonne of salmon harvested. They can't get rid of it, even at the modest prices it sells at in the shops. No amount of marketing seems able to push consumption further. The truth, although salmon producers can't see it, is that salmon is a rich, cloying fish, to be eaten only five or six times in a summer as a treat, and then forgotten until next year.

As with battery chicken, farmed salmon are raised unnaturally quickly to a standard weight, on a standard diet. We don't buy as much of it as the salmon farmers would like, but why do we buy it at all? One reason, I suppose, is that in this country we have got used to having all sorts of formerly seasonal foods available all year round. Choosing from a restaurant menu or shopping for a dinner party, we expect to choose salmon and strawberries as easily in February or October as in the early summer of which they

used to be the bounty. All too often, British taste-buds don't seem to notice that the former delicacy has come to taste of lightly flavoured water.

Then comes the stage when the real thing isn't available, even in season:



when strawberries are always tasteless, flabby red hearts and salmon is always an exact shade of pink, chosen from a shade card (honestly: that's how they regulate the addition of dye to the powdered sand eels).

This blanket mediocrity all but smothered pork and poultry production. There has been a revival of traditional rearing methods for those, on grounds of both taste and animal welfare. Could the same thing be happening with salmon? The salmon industry's present troubles perhaps indicate that it is.

Salmon farming, like all other forms of factory farm-

ing, is big business, and if it collapses people lose jobs. But spare a thought for the farmed, as well as the farmers. The truth is that they are routinely stocked at 12 large salmon per cubic metre, swimming ceaselessly round their net prisons, unable to survive their close confinement without constant drugging and disinfecting.

So go for salmon in season, which it is now. If it isn't labelled wild, it is farmed. The recipe below is a traditional Swedish mid-summer dish. It is also good made with mackerel. If you boggle at the amount of sugar, cut down to half.

General tin
700g/1½lb salmon fillet
For pickle:
30g/1oz each sea salt and caster sugar
1 tsp ground black pepper
2tbsp chopped fresh dill or 1tbsp dried
2tbsp brandy or other spirit
For sauce:
2tbsp French mustard
30g/1oz caster sugar
1 egg yolk
100ml/4fl oz olive oil
2tbsp white wine vinegar
fresh dill, salt and black pepper to taste

Cut salmon in thin slices. Mix pickle ingredients, spread in a shallow dish (not metal). Lay on half salmon, half remaining pickle, remaining salmon, remaining pickle. Cover with a weighted plate or board, refrigerate at least 24 hours. Make sauce as for mayonnaise, adding the dill etc last.

Cherries ripe for summer dishes

With the traditional 'heralds of summer' full and fair, Frances Bissell, the *Times* cook, shares some favourite recipes



IN APRIL I drove through northern Burgundy and saw cherry orchards in blossom on the slopes above Coulanges-la-Vineuse, St Bris-le-Vineux and France, where vineyards might otherwise have been. In the Médoc last week the trees were full of ripening fruit.

The French markets this week are piled with trays of cherries from the Tarn and Garonne valleys, and down in the Basque country it is most unlikely that the *cure de l'assouaison* will have had to go and buy cherries in Spain for the village's Fête des Cerises, held last Sunday (last year a local chef told me that this is what sometimes happens if the cherry season is late).

Cherries are not the only fruit that herald midsummer. Melons from Cavallion perfume the air, as well as melons from the Charente later in the season. Fresh almonds, the first of the raspberries and exquisite *fruits des bois* make me want to plan any number of *déjeuner sur l'herbe*, with little more to eat than baskets of fruit and fresh white cheeses laid on vine leaves.

I find the cherries most tempting. Cherry jam is one of my favourites, yet stoning cherries is a messy and lengthy process — and it might be considered anti-social not to stone them if you are making jam. There are gadgets such as olive stoners, and a French *trac* for stoning cherries in which the cherries are placed in a chute, a lever pressed, the stone drops into a clear plastic container and the cherries slide into a bowl. As the cherry season is so short in Britain, perhaps we should not grudge the time spent on them: switch on the cricket commentary, the afternoon play or a soothing CD, and you will have stoned a few pounds in no time. Then you can make jam, ice-cream, sauce, Black Forest cake, pancake fillings and cherry pie.

There are two main types of cherries, sweet and sour. More than 300 varieties of sweet cherries and 600 varieties of sour cherries have been recorded but, as with most horticultural and agricultural produce, only a few varieties are available commercially. Some headway has been made in the reintroduction of traditional native apple varieties, and it would be very cheering to think that the same might happen for cherries.

Of the sweet cherries, we are most familiar with the *geon*, or *guignol*, and the *heart*, or *bigarreau*. The first have soft, tender, juicy flesh and include Waterloo, Elton, Eagle, Early Purple and Black Tarian; the hearts are firmer, sweet-fleshed with a slightly crisp texture, if something as tender as a cherry can be described as crisp. Windsor, Schmidt and Mendel in Britain, *barla*, *recheron*, *van* and *coeur de pigeon* in France.

all belong to the heart or *bigarreau* group. One of the best known is the Napoleon, pale-fleshed with a pinkish yellow skin flushed with red. With its agreeable balance of sweetness and acidity, this one is excellent for preserves.

Among the sour cherries, also known as morelles and amareles, are the Montmorency and the Kenish cherry. These are excellent for preserves, and for serving with meat dishes. Indeed, expect any dish described on a menu as "Montmorency" to have cherries in it somewhere. They may no longer be of the Montmorency variety, as they should, but it serves as a reminder of the small town of the same name just outside Paris, which used to supply Les Halles market with cherries.

As well as English and French cherries, there are the morelles, from Vignola near Modena in northern Italy, considered by some to be the very finest. These are the best dessert fruit, crisp, juicy and full of flavour. It would be a pity to cook them.

When buying cherries, look at the stem carefully, as this is the best indicator of freshness. It should be green and flexible. Dry, brown, brittle stems tell you that the fruit was picked some time ago. Sound, unsplit fruit will keep for up to six days in the refrigerator if covered.

Summer plide
(makes 12-15 servings)
12 small onions, peeled
12 black unstoned olives
12 green olives
12 button mushrooms, wiped
12 small radishes, topped and tailed
12 unstoned cherries
12 cherry tomatoes
4 garlic cloves, peeled and quartered lengthways
1 tsp sea salt
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
cayenne to taste (optional)
2 cloves
1 small piece cinnamon
1/4 pt/140ml olive oil
1/4 pt/70ml sherry vinegar or wine vinegar
1 tbsp kirsch (optional)

Blanch the onions for two-three minutes and put in a large glass jar or bowl with the rest of the vegetables and fruit. Put the spices and liquids in a small saucepan and bring to the boil. Pour over the vegetables and fruit, mix well and seal for three-four days before serving. This need not be in a preserving jar, a large glass bowl covered with cling film will do just as well. This makes a piquant, colourful sweet and sour mix, which can be served just as you serve olives with drinks.

TO achieve a good set for cherry jam, extra acid and pectin are needed: these are found in goose-

berries and *redcurrants*. Make a juice by cooking 6oz/170g or so of either fruit in just over 1/2 pt/300ml water, crushing and then straining through a fine sieve.

Cherry jam
(makes about 4lb/1.80kg)
1 1/2-2lb/680-900g granulated sugar (depending on the sweetness of the fruit)
1/4 pt/430ml gooseberry or redcurrant juice
2lb/900g stoned cherries

Put the sugar and 1/4 pt/140ml juice in a saucepan and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Add the rest of the juice and cherries, bring to the boil, and boil rapidly until setting point is reached. Spoon into clean, hot jars, seal and label.

Kissel
(serves 4-6)
1lb/450g stoned cherries
2pt/1.15l water
5oz/140g sugar
2oz/60g potato flour

Simmer the cherries and water for ten minutes. Crush, in the pan, with a large wooden spoon, electric hand-blender or potato masher, and cook for a further two minutes. Strain into a clean saucepan, add the sugar, and heat the juice. Mix the flour with 2tbsp cold water, and stir into the juice as soon as it comes to the boil. Stirring all the time, let the mixture boil for one minute.

Remove from the heat, and pour into a bowl. The mixture will set to a soft, smooth jelly-like texture as it cools. The mixture should not be allowed to boil for more than one-two minutes for its final cooking or the starches will break down and the mixture remain liquid. I learnt how to make kissel from a former landlady whose family had lived in Russia. We also made it from redcurrants and other soft fruit.

Cherries in red wine jelly
(serves 6 — use a 1lb/500g loaf tin or jelly mould)
3 leaves or 3tsp gelatine
1/4 pt/430ml good dry red wine
1/2 lb/230g stoned sweet cherries
sugar to taste

Soften the gelatine in 1/4 pt/140ml red wine. Put the cherries and remaining wine in a saucepan and bring gently just to simmering point. Remove from the heat and strain the hot juices over the gelatine. Stir until the gelatine has dissolved. Sweeten the liquid to taste. Wet the mould and put in the cherries. Pour on the liquid and, when cold, refrigerate until set. Turn out of the mould and serve.

THE next recipe is much more complicated than the one I normally use: ice-cream served with warm cherries in a rich syrup. The cherries are stoned and in place of the stalks is a small "cigar" roll of crisp biscuit. It is a very good pudding, but have someone give you a hand at the end, sticking the



rolls in the cherries. Alternatively, leave the biscuits unrolled and serve them on a plate to accompany the cherries and ice-cream. In the original version, the ice-cream I had was pistachio, made with pistachio paste, which is like marzipan or almond paste. However, it is not easy to obtain outside wholesale suppliers, and I have given a version for almond ice-cream.

Cassiolette de cerises tièdes, glace amande
(serves 8)
Almond ice-cream
5pt/280ml milk
1/4 pt/280ml single cream
1/4 lb/110g softened almond paste
8 free-range egg yolks
3oz/85g caster sugar
1oz/15g glucose (optional)

Heat the milk, cream and almond paste in a saucepan. In a bowl, beat together the eggs, sugar and glucose, if using it. When warm, add a quarter of the cream mixture to the egg mixture, and thoroughly incorporate. When the cream mixture boils, pour it over the egg mixture, beating continuously.

Sieve the mixture into a clean saucepan and cook gently until it will coat the back of a spoon. Cool, then freeze in an ice-cream maker, or in a box in the freezer. An ice-cream maker will turn the mixture and make it smooth. You will need to stir the mixture by hand, or in a food processor, during freezing for

a really smooth ice-cream if you freeze the mixture in a container.

Biscuit mixture
generous 1 lb/125g unsalted butter at room temperature
6 1/2 oz/185g icing sugar
generous 1 lb/125g plain flour, sifted
5-6 free-range egg whites
pure vanilla extract

Lightly cream together the butter and sugar, and then add the rest of the ingredients, mixing to a paste. Rest the mixture in the refrigerator for 15-20 minutes. Spread the mixture thinly in 1 1/2 in/4cm circles on a buttered baking sheet. Bake at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for eight minutes. As soon as you remove the sheet from the oven, roll up each biscuit while still warm.

Cherries
7lb/3000g water
7oz/200g sugar
7oz/200g unsalted butter
2lb/900g stoned cherries
1-2tbsp kirsch

Use a clean non-stick frying pan and in it put the water, sugar and butter. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, and then cook the mixture until syrupy. Add the cherries and poach for five minutes, stirring in the kirsch at the end. Pour the syrup into shallow soup plates or dishes together with a portion of cherries. Place "cigar-ettes" in each cherry cavity, and a scoop of almond ice-cream on top.

FRANCE

GREAT CLASSICS: CLAFOUTIS

TRADITIONALLY a harvest dish of central France, *clafoutis* is simple to cook and the ingredients are inexpensive and available in most store cupboards. It is almost identical to the English hasty puddings, a thick batter poured over fruit and baked in the oven.

Jean-Marie Gautier, the executive chef at the Hotel du Palais in Biarritz, who gave me the recipe for *cassiolette de cerises tièdes, glace pistache* (left), sometimes uses apricots in his *clafoutis*. He says he likes to make it at home, first putting the baking dish in the oven long enough to brown the butter, and then pouring in the batter, rather like the technique used for making Yorkshire pudding.

This is a substantial dish, best served after lighter courses, salad and fish, for example. Although *clafoutis* can be served straight from the oven, I like it best when just warm. Leftovers are popular for breakfast.

While cherries and apricots are suitable for baking in a *clafoutis*, watery, acidic fruits such as rhubarb and gooseberries do not work as well and I would not use soft fruit in this way, except for blueberries and bilberries. Sliced apples or pears, halved plums or stoned

greeneggs will all make very good *clafoutis*, particularly if you add a little matching *eau de vie* or liqueur to the batter. Alternatively, flavour a *crème chantilly* to serve with the *clafoutis*. Yoghurt, fromage blanc, *crème fraîche*, single, double or clotted cream are all suitable accompaniments, or you can serve a thick sauce or thin syrup of the same or complementary fruit.

Clafoutis
(serves 6)
1-2oz/30-60g unsalted butter
2 free-range eggs
2 free-range egg yolks
3oz/60g flour
1tbsp kirsch (optional)
2oz/60g sugar
1/4 lb/340g stoned cherries

Butter generously a 9-10in/23-25cm pie or quiche dish, place on a baking sheet and put in the oven. Heat the oven to 180C/35F, gas mark 4. Meanwhile, beat the batter ingredients together until smooth. Remove the hot pie dish from the oven, pour in half the batter, add the cherries and remaining batter. Return the dish on the baking tray to the oven as quickly as possible. Lower the heat to 170C/325F, gas mark 3 and bake for 45-60 minutes.

F.B.

Raise your glass to better taste

Robin Young joins a wine-tasting panel with a shapely difference

We are all vaguely aware that wine tastes better from fine glass. Georg Riedel's theory is that drinking from the right glass is as important as drinking the right wine. Herr Riedel's company, of course, makes glasses.

In fact, Riedel makes 42 different gourmet glasses, each designed to flatter and accentuate the attractions of a different grape variety or style of wine. There are also glasses for water, beers and spirits. Herr Riedel's argument is that wines have different characteristics and the tongue has different taste zones. The tip of the tongue is sensitive to sweetness and fruit, the back to bitterness, and the sides to salty and savoury flavours and acidity. The shapes of the glasses are intended to direct the wine to the different taste zones in proportions that will give the drinker the best impression of the particular wine.

To demonstrate his case, Herr Riedel invites you to sip ice-cold water from his various glasses, so that you can feel the different impact each glass gives. It works.

A Riedel tasting I attended went further. A squad of wine experts was served four unidentified wines in four different glasses. Three sets of glasses were from Riedel: the hand-made Sommeliers Bordeaux Grand Cru (glass number 400/00, which is big enough to hold a bottle and costs £36); the machine-made Vinum Bordeaux (No 416/0, £11.50); and the smaller

Vinum Beaujolais Nouveau (No 416/3, £10). The fourth glass was a commonplace Paris goblet with a rolled lip, such as you meet in a pub. The four wines, identified only after the tasting had finished, were all 1988 vintage, two Italian and two French: Dammag Barbaresco, Ornellaia, Château Canon from Canon Fronsac, and the premier cru classé Château Latour.

We were asked to give marks to each wine from each glass, and at the end to attempt to arrange the glasses in rows so that we grouped each of our four samples of the same wine together.

What Herr Riedel was out to prove was duly shown: that when the marks were added up the least-liked wine (Château Canon) in the best-liked glass (the Sommeliers Grand Cru) outscored the best-liked wine (Château Latour) in the least-liked glass (not too surprisingly, the Paris goblet). It is always so, he says.

More impressive was that with one exception all the experts failed to sort the wines correctly into their proper groups. The exception deserves mention because it proves to me that his, at least, is one palate that really can be trusted to taste wine accurately, whenever glass is served up in. He was Julian Brind, the wine buyer for Waitrose, which helps to explain why his company's selections are more consistently reliable than most. My effort was second best: I confused the two Italians in



Work in the glass house: Rodney Briant-Evans of Riedel

their Paris goblets. No one else had a single row right.

Of course, it does not follow that if you put plunk in the Sommeliers Grand Cru glass it will taste anything like Château Latour. Indeed, Herr Riedel admitted that the ill-favoured Paris goblet, with its rolled lip, could be good for serving a cheap Sauternes, which might need to have its acidity accentuated by being spread to the sides of the tongue by the glass lip.

"The point is that most tasters will have a better impression of whatever wine they are drinking if they drink it from an appropriately designed glass.

But this negates accepted wisdom about the correct way to taste, which advocates swirling the wine around the mouth before swallowing. It is first impressions which count, Herr Riedel says, not tasting room rituals.

From his series of tastings he seems to have proved he is right, and he has convinced an impressive phalanx of the world's leading wine-makers and writers. Robert M. Parker Jr, the American taster whose judgment I admire above all others, says of Riedel glasses: "Their effect is profound. I cannot emphasise enough what a difference they make."

Best buys

● **Vin Somerelda 1990**, Torres, Thresham, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Victoria Wine, £5.49. Miguel Torres's distinctive muscat and gewürztraminer blend is a summer aperitif to set guests talking with its light and fruity flavours.

● **Pinot d'Alsace 1990**, Domaine Zind Humbrecht, Wine Rack, £7.99. Firm, full, ripe, round chardonnay with a rich finish. Excellent with full-flavoured fish or meat dishes.

● **Domaine de la Croix, Bergerac 1991**, Victoria Wine, £3.99. Dry, white for everyday drinking. Deliciously fresh and lively finish.

● **Collards Dry Chateau Blanc, Waitrose 1991**, Bottoms Up, Wine Rack, £4.99. New Zealand sauvignon. A highly attractive juicy wine, tasting of apple and apricots. Crisply dry but with a touch of honey flavour in the finish.

● **Saint-Amour 1991**, Waitrose, £2.99 per half-bottle. Exceptionally fruity, soft, light and charming wine ready for drinking chilled with any summer meal.

I should add that Riedel glasses, though expensive and elegantly stemmed, are so strong that they can be banged together dangerously without harm, and the smaller ones can go in some dishwashers if you go easy on the detergent and pre-rinse everything else that is washed with them.

● **Stockists of Riedel glasses include:** Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-730 1234); Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 3434); General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-730 0411); Thomas Goode & Son, 19 South Audley Street, W1 (071-499 2823); Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 1234); and some wine merchants.

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In the public interest, a case of private intrusion

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

In the interests of harmony on this farm, let me now declare that I sympathise deeply with those poor souls in the public eye whose every move and every private emotion is dissected in newsprint. It can be no fun to wake from your night's sleep fearful of each day's embarrassment.

I happen to know that this is the way the royal lady I have in mind feels, for although I have not discussed it with her directly — it is not the way these things are done — she has let her feelings be known.

I refer to Alice, the Large Black sow, our first piece of livestock, the foundation of our farm and the figurehead of this little state. "Quite frankly," sources close to her tell me, "she has had a bellyful of the press. She is pig sick of them."

She means me, of course. Her privacy has been intolerably intruded upon and she no longer feels able to settle her ample belly into a

pleasantly cooling wallow of mud without some nosy-parker peering over the hedge and asking: "Oooh, is that Alice the one that's always in the paper?"

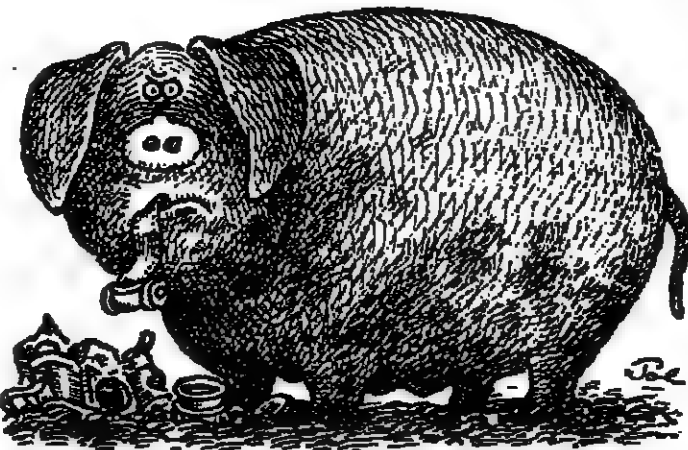
Things came to a head last week when one of these uninvited visitors produced a camera. In order to secure his exclusive shot he tantalisingly rattled a feed bucket lying by the sty. Awoken from a deep sleep, Alice emerged looking far from her best: ears askew, eyes bleary, and tail hanging limply, only to find it was a false alarm. Shutters whirled. No doubt those pictures are fetching thousands from the more salacious French magazines.

Where will it all end? How can she be sure that the next time she goes to the boar the rat-pack will

not be hiding behind the feed bin to capture her private moments?

I know she feels this way because in recent weeks Alice has been treating me with an increasing coolness. She had always been happy to use me as a way of channelling her views to a wider world, not being in a position to speak publicly herself. But last Christmas, when I allowed details of her farrowing to be made public as part of an advertisement on the London Underground, I found myself cut dead. She even rejected tickles behind the ear.

Moreover, sources close to her have revealed that she is growing increasingly worried at the behaviour of the younger generation. Phoebe, her until recently virgin-



al daughter, is just back from the boar and will have her first litter this summer. Alice fears greedily the publicity that will ensue, and wonders how the young girl will bear up under the strain. She is deeply disappointed that all pleas from her to me are met with an admittedly arrogant, "Ah, but it is in the public interest." Digging around in pigs' souls, she calls it. And there the matter might have

rested had not this great family been brought together by near tragedy. Phoebe arrived home last Friday, and within hours of leaving the trailer suffered a physical collapse. Her back legs alarmingly ceased to work. She could drag herself along on her front elbows in the manner of a seal, but that was as much as she could manage. Rather than ring the vet, I rang another breeder, who told me he had a similar experience and was advised by his vet that there were only two solutions: one was an injection that would cure her but abort her piglets, and the other was to shoot her. I didn't fancy either, and neither did my breeder friend whose solution was to turn his pig on to the meadow and see what happened. She eventually made a full recovery.

I turned Phoebe into the long clover so that a casual snapper would not photograph her, and

bided my time. By day six I was worried. She had not risen. She was not in any way dispirited or off her food. Indeed, she was extremely chirpy, for a pig. But I feared the worst, until in a second-hand bookshop I found yet another aged farming tome. It advised that pigs which fail to rise should be given brewer's yeast and cod liver oil.

Off to Boots I rushed, and within the hour I had administered the dose. Ten minutes later — I swear it — the prostrate sow had risen on all four fat black legs, and walked.

We all rejoiced. Alice forgave me all my transgressions and in return I vowed that when I put pen to paper in future I would be more careful. The family has been brought into line and decorum is restored to this little estate. I know that Alice is once again a happy pig, but when asked for her reaction, sources close to her would offer no comment.

Soft pedal on a tough bike

Mountain bikers who live on the flat (or are over the hill) could try these alternatives, Jeremy Hart reports

Cyclists' cupid, pedal-er's polo pony, bicyclist's bunny-hopper, criminal catcher... it seems that 4 million of Britain's 4.5 million mountain bikes are being used for anything but climbing mountains. The contraption which has rejuvenated a once ailing British bicycle industry, with sales worth £365 million, is rarely put to the rugged, rural tests for which it was invented in the late 1970s.

Though hardly suitable for events such as tomorrow's 58-mile British Heart Foundation bicycle run from London to Brighton, uses for the tough machines are increasing.

Many of the ideas come from the United States: from gatherings such as the Fat Tire Bike Week in Crested Butte, Colorado, where devotees practise mountain bike log-pulling and bicycle limbo. Britain's riders, determined not to be outdone, are taking to such games as bike soccer. As one rider said: "There are no limits to what you can do on a mountain bike."

Here are some of the alternative uses:

Cycling companions: lonely hearts of the road. Each month in *Cycle Touring and Camping* magazine, more than a dozen cyclists advertise for companions. "Fit female (37)... with sense of adventure seeks male companions for biking/hiking etc", reads one. The service is open to members of the Cyclists' Touring Club (0483 417217).

"I know plenty of couples who got together through biking," one mountain biker says. "And one or two who have got close to spinning up."

Bike attack: paintball battles for pedallers. The most aggressive use of the mountain bike seems to be bicycle paintball. Using hand-diehard-mounted paintball guns, teams of up to ten side chase each other around a man-made obstacle course in what the organisers at the Bike Attack Centre, in Epping Forest, Essex, call "dogfights". Each time a team member is hit they have to retire. The surviving team is the winner. Face masks and other protection and hire of the guns and bikes is included in the £25-a-head charge. "Apparently it's great fun," says John Stevenson, the editor of *Mountain Bike UK* magazine. (Bike Attack, 0992 577660).

Bike hunts: followers take to two wheels. Supporters of and campaigners against fox hunting have taken to mountain bikes. "It increases their ability to follow the hunt," says Chris Payne, of the British Mountain Bike Club. Hunt saboteurs are also known to use mountain bikes. (British Mountain Bike Club, 0536 412211).

Orientation: map reading on a mountain bike. Many mountain bike clubs organise one-day orienteering competitions for teams of two. Britain's biggest and most successful competition was a two-day event for 500 on the north Yorkshire moors, which involved camping out. One London club organised orienteering around the Elephant and Castle, including sections through the subway.

Metropolitan mountain bike police: cops on cycles. Officers at London's Marylebone police station have had mountain bikes for more than three years. Used mainly in the crowded areas of Oxford Street and Regent Street, the bike police have been able to sneak up on illegal street

traders and pickpockets. One was even used in a car chase. "They were quite useful," Inspector Graham Richards says. "We have had quite a lot of arrests. A man on a bike can go a lot quicker than an officer on foot." However, he admits that one of their mountain bikes has been stolen from the police car park.

Cycle sidecars: mountain bikes made for two. In the London suburb of New Malden, Robin Head, a former motor-cycle sidecar racer, has created mountain bike sidecar racing, which uses standard mountain bikes with a space-age frame bolted on. While he, or any of the dozens of riders who have taken up the sport, pedals like crazy, his wife Gill stands on the frame, scooting on the straight bits and leaning to one side or the other through corners at speeds of more than 20mph. Obstacles, including jumps and ditches, add to the difficulty in the brief two-lap races. "Any more would be too tiring," Mrs Head says.

Pedal polo: polo for penny-pinchers. Just taking off in Britain is a sport from Crested Butte, where cars are outnumbered by mountain bikes. Bike polo is for teams of four; the rules are similar to the equestrian version. There the stilarities end: the field is only a fifth the normal size and goals are more frequent (about one a minute). *Mountain Bike UK* is planning to set up a league for players in Britain.



Wheeling high to adventure: a rider demonstrates the original, exciting use for the multigeared mountain bikes

Slalom and speed trials: cycling for speed freaks. Daredevil devotees of mountain biking have taken a reverse approach to the original idea of the bikes: they barrel down mountains in timed individual runs or in dual slalom races, at 60mph.

The 1992 British Heart Foundation London to Brighton bike ride takes place tomorrow. The event, which last year raised more than £1 million in charity sponsorship, leaves from Clapham Common (all 27,000 places have been allocated).

There is still time to register for three other BHF events: the 36-mile South Wales Bike Ride, from Swansea around the Gower peninsula, on July 5 (0597 822051); the 25-mile Two Counties Cyclethon, south Glamorgan and Gwent, Sept 6 (0597 822051); and Hadrian's Bike Ride, starting from Gateshead, with a choice of 62 or 44-mile routes, also Sept 6 (091-273 1568).

Basny-hopping bikers: inner-city stunts. Where the scope for using a mountain bike to its full is impossible, some riders have developed stunts and competitions to test their skill. "Bunny-hopping" — jumping the bike over a bar — is the most popular and has recently been introduced at nationwide mountain bike meetings.

"I've no idea how they get so high," one expert says. "The technique involves doing a very high wheelie and then flicking the back wheel round and over." The record stands at about 16in.

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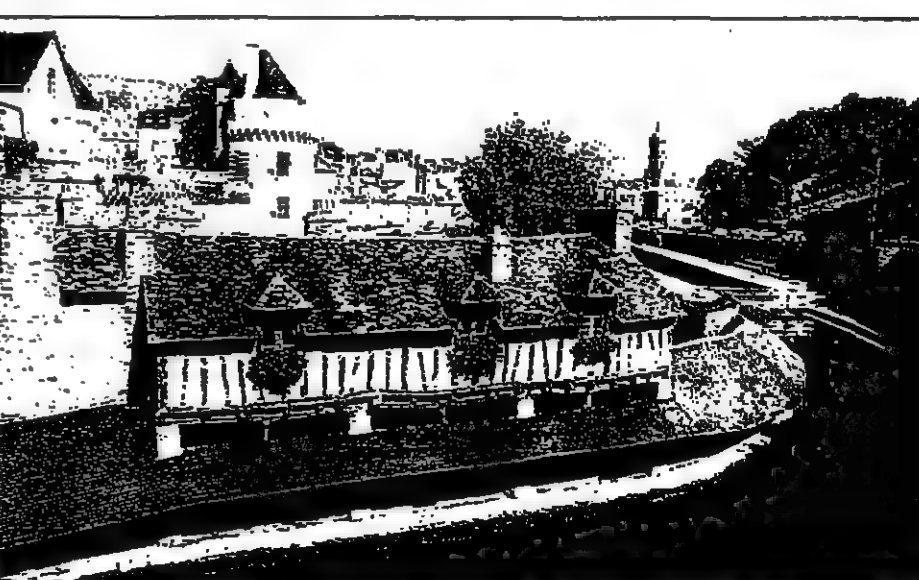
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GARDEN TO VISIT ● **Buckinghamshire:** River Cottage has a small garden with unusual plants of every kind. Interesting design and wild garden down to river. Radridge, 15m W of Buckingham, Sun, Mon, 2-5pm. £1, child free.

Fly or sail to France free with *The Times* and Sealink or T.A.T.

Breton sun and seafood

Britanny is a land of small farms, fine beaches and cliffs. In many a rough field behind a tiny farmhouse there is now a modern villa, let out for the summer — and if you rent it, you may find the farmer has left artichokes for you on the doorstep when you get back from the sea. The beaches are good, and in July and August packed with swimmers and sunbathers. The town of Quiberon has a particularly fine sandy beach, and there are many ferries every day from Quiberon harbour out to the spectacular island of Belle-Ile.



Britanny's heritage: 16th-century wash-houses at Vannes on the Gulf of Morbihan

Here as everywhere in Britanny, seafood is the thing: lobsters and crabs, mussels, scallops and oysters, accompanied by good and very cheap white muscadet wine. The Bretons specialise in *galettes* or pancakes, and a seafood pancake is one of the best of them; there are about 1,800 crêperies in Britanny, which also serve them with ham or cheese, fruit or jam.

The past is never far away in

Britanny. There are thousands of megalithic monuments — menhirs (or standing stones) and the chamber tombs called dolmens. Carnac has a particularly fine, haunting assemblage of these stones.

Win a Parisian break

The Times, in association with T.A.T. European Airlines and Copthorne Hotels, is offering readers the chance to win one of five luxury two-night breaks in Paris.

Today's winners and their partners will be flown by T.A.T. European Airlines, to Charles de Gaulle Airport. In Paris the five winners and their partners will stay for two nights at the four-star Hotel Copthorne Commodore near the Opéra.

Today's winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to visit the Louvre.

To enter telephone our competition line on 0891 700149 before midnight tonight. You will be asked to give your answers to the questions, and leave your name, address and telephone number. Calls cost 36p per minute at cheap rate and 48p per

minute at all other times. The winners will be selected at random from all the correct entries received by midnight tonight and notified by telephone on Monday. The answers and winners' names will be published in *The Times* next week.

Conditions of entry: Employees (and their relatives) of *The Times* Newspapers Ltd., T.A.T., Copthorne Hotels or their agents are ineligible for entry. The Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. *The Times* competition rules apply — available on request.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who was responsible for the thinking and kissing at Hôtel Biran?
2. In which Paris museum is the Venus de Milo?
3. Where would you find the ashes of Hugo, Zola and Braile?

FREE RETURN TRIP TO FRANCE

THE exclusive Passport to France travel offers continue with *The Times* giving you the chance to take a car with family or friends to France for free. Readers sailing to France with Sealink Stena Line ferries before August 31, 1992 can get a ticket free for a return cross-Channel trip.

The offer is available on the Dover-Calais, Southampton-Cherbourg and Newhaven-Dieppe routes and gives you the freedom to do as you like: whether it is relaxing in a rural gîte, or touring the vineyards and sampling the produce.

To qualify for our exclusive Sealink offer, readers of *The Times* are invited to book and pay for an all-in car standard return at the brochure price for travel before August 31. The all-in car standard return fare entitles up to five persons (including the driver) to take any length of car, by Sealink for a minimum seven-day stay.

Readers will then be entitled to a free ticket on Sealink's all-in car (up to five days) faresaver return for travel between September 14 and December 17 inclusive, subject to restricted space.

HOW TO BOOK Readers should book their travel before August 31 by contacting their local Abta travel agent, motorhome organisation or calling Sealink direct on 0233 615222, Monday-Sunday. Readers will then receive a voucher and a booking form entitling them to a free ticket for travel between September 14 and December 17, 1992.

After completing the first journey, readers should attach to the application form the counterfoil of the first ticket and ten different Passport to France Sealink tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between June 14 and June 27.



Surprise, surprise: a secret hobby

Feather report

No, it is not obsession. One is not always neurotically assigning every moving speck into its correct species. Rather, it is habit. One acquires an awareness of life going on all around, a subliminal process, one that adds much to the richness of life, because it is with such richness that one is concerned.

The subliminal process is one that brings gifts, for there are some birds you see only by chance. They just appear, suddenly, when you are doing something else, and vanish again. Without this subliminal awareness you would never know they were there.

So there I was, sitting on a fence one evening, waiting for my wife, when my eyes flickered to a shape flashing by. Pigeon? No, falcon. That, in southern England, away from melodramatic cliffs, almost always means kestrel. Always good to see a kestrel.

But this was a kestrel that refused to fly up and hover; instead, it plummeted downwards into a flock of birds to put them to flight, and then struck upwards at birds that were now handily silhouetted against the sky. It missed and roared off at speed.

It was a hobby. A serious contender for the most dashing bird in Britain: our great what-the-hell-was-that bird.

Hobbies are secretive, much overlooked and devastatingly spectacular. They are unbelievably agile — their name



Now you see it, now you don't: the speedy, spectacular hobby

comes from the French *hobby*, to jump about. They are so brilliant aerobically they can pluck swallows out of the air.

Their scientific name is *Falco subbuteo* — the last word might strike a chord: there is a table football game called Subbuteo, invented by a bird who thought this was more than a game in fact, a true hobby.

Never mind football, the hobby is probably the best striker in Britain. Once I saw a hobby blast into a whirl of house martins, all circling round a church tower in early autumn, wondering which way Africa was. He struck, killed, vanished in the blink of an eye. Probably half my hobby sightings have been

binocular-less birds I have seen quite by chance, on non-birding occasions, or birds whose appearance and disappearance has been too fast to raise binoculars to eye.

Hobbies are that kind of bird: all speed and dash and vanish, leaving you asking who was that masked man? They have a kind of mask, so that is appropriate.

Their breeding is hard to establish. Even on intensively watched bird reserves warblers often have to admit defeat and write only that they suspect breeding hobby.

But hobbies are doing pretty well. The airways of southern England are a delight to them: there are an estimated 500 breeding pairs. They winter

south of the Sahara, but breed further north, feeding on any bird, no matter how agile, and also on flying insects. Dragonflies are a special favourite: they devour on the wing.

They are agile enough to go for a bit of piracy as well. The other week, in Spain, I saw two large birds of prey go talon to talon: for a moment, I thought this was a piece of courtship ceremony, but no. It was a hobby, claw to claw with a Montagu's harrier: an impressive, but altogether more leisurely bird of prey.

The next moment, the hobby broke free, and roared towards me at speed, the harrier's lunch in its talons. It passed about 6ft away, and vanished, hobby-like. The harrier was left circling, no doubt muttering "what the hell was that?"

A hobby can turn up any time in the summer months, though late August is probably the likeliest: parents are returning and newly fledged birds are making their first journey to Africa, feeding as they fly.

Hobbies are British birding's great surprise: a well-kept secret. But then, birds are like stars at night: the more you look, the more you see.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: birders — look for lappet-cats returning from continental breeding grounds, heading for open fields. Twitchees — least seen at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Scarce booted warbler. Wadley Island, Cumbria. Details from Birdline, 0895 700222.



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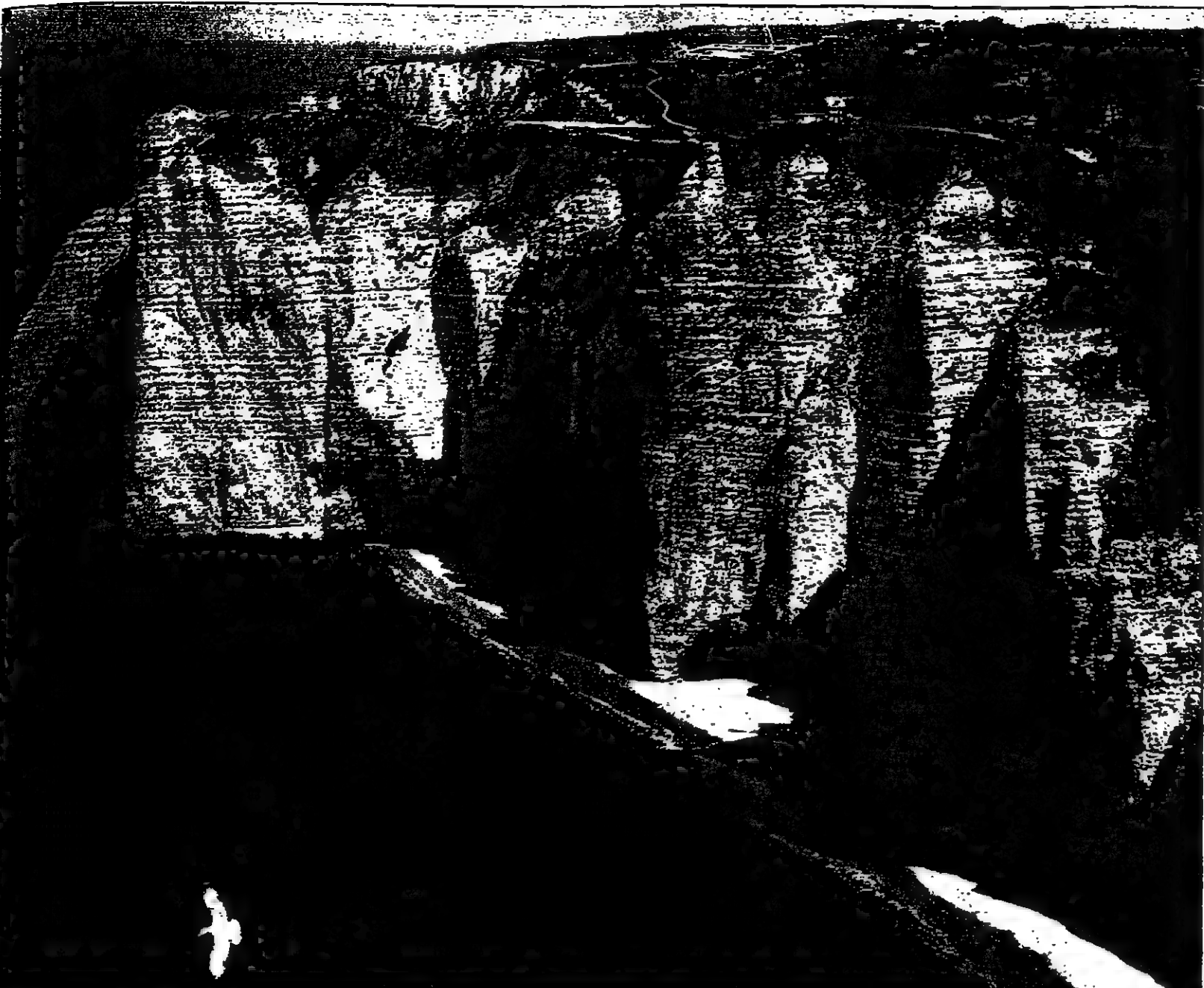
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● Audrien Château (31-32) - 18th
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Bessin, a good find
● St-Jacques-Hougue
17th-century house
in the heart of the
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view of the sea
● St-Germain-des-
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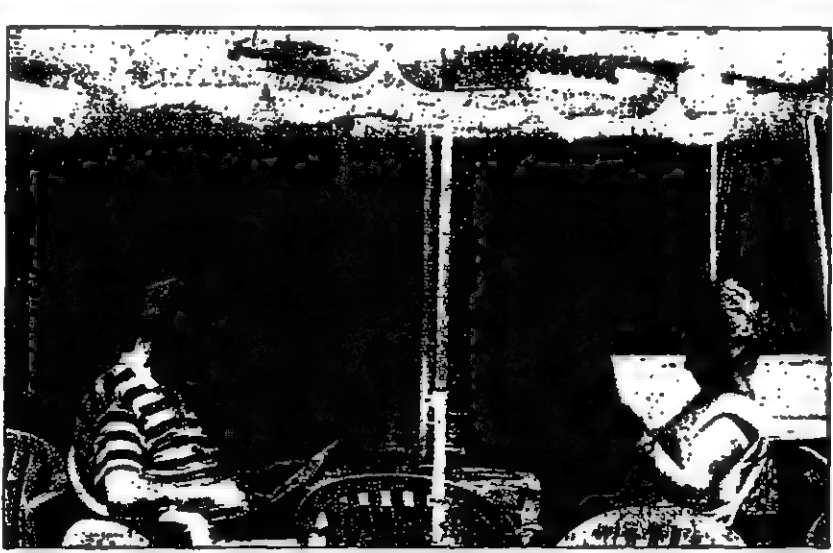


Enough to put down the brilliant white cliffs of the Normandy coast at Etretat; inland lie the picturesque manors, shady copses and laden orchards that typify the region

Monte de Rouen, the principal delights
dure of Roche d'Or, woods and meadows of the
St-Amand gorge, rocky bays, the copper-beat-
en look small. The town of Villedieu-les-Poëles
Pushing further up its bell-foundry, the Ro-
reach the Normandy abbaye of Lessay, a
great natural park, a magnificent cathedral of
country interpenetrations, and the majestic
and copes. Between the Hambye abbey
and Sees, where down the coast there are the
compete for the ropes of Utah Beach in the east,
national prizes the oyster beds at
on their windows, Haast-la-Hougue, and quays
glades of the forest with lobster pots at
shelter deer and sheep. The west coast,
In the same vale, with cliffs and high
main is gulf of the islands, is Millet country, at
hyperbole, discover most desolate between the
slopes as the Abbe de Jobourg and the Cap de
but the four is very large, but provided with
run from Montebello, a delightful resort, the
Jubans Roman, of which are Barneville-
est and Fontaine-de-l'Écluse and Granville.
In the north of the bottom of the Cotentin
park, Bagnole-de-l'Écluse, keeping the very best till
Normandy, larger is the wondrous Mont-St-
Michel, a magnificent island, beyond its surrounding
sea over the Pas de Calais, but in Brittany. At the
the town of which is the thumb is Cherbourg
At its western end, which, once you can tear
thrusts a granite head, you can return to
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thrusts a granite head, you can return to



Water colours: art on the shores of Etretat



Readers in sunshine: relaxing in a waterside café against an azure backdrop

WHAT TO BUY

Souvenirs to savour: specialities include

- Norman handicrafts make good souvenirs, especially lace from Alençon, Argentan or Bayeux; pottery from the enchanting Buisson de May pottery at St-Aquilin-de-Pacy, and traditional Norman salt-glaze countryware from Noron-la-Poterie or Valognes; wrought ironwork, especially from Chenu, Tinchebray and Valframbert in the Orne; woven furnishing materials from Périers-sur-le-Dan and La Ferrière-Duval in Calvados, or Muids in Eure; basketwork from Remilly-sur-Lozon, Manche; copperware from Villedieu-les-Poëles. Local crafts are on sale in the street market of Dreux.
- For food the Saturday morning market in Dieppe is one of the most marvellous in northern France. The best food shops in the Channel ports at which to stock up on the way home are épicerie Claude Olivier, 18 rue St-Jacques; pâtisserie Divernet, 138 Grande Rue; chocolaterie Rattel, 115 Grande Rue in Dieppe, and Lefèvre, 127 rue Victor Hugo, Le Havre. There are Mammouth and Leclerc hypermarkets at

cheeses and *tripes à la mode de Caen*

- Dieppe, Auchan at Le Havre and Con-
nant and Auchan in Cherbourg.
- The best cider is sold from the farm-
gate in the Pays d'Auge region by farms
displaying the sign "Cru de Cambrémer",
which denotes that they were successful in
an annual tasting organised by the
producers themselves. Local syndicates
d'initiative and tourist offices can supply
names and addresses of farms which sell
their own poultry, cream, cheese and
other products.
- The principal local food specialities
beside the Normandy cheeses are: *canard
à la rouennaise*, *tripes à la mode de
Caen*, *tripes en brochette* from La Fer-
rière-Macé, *tripe* and ham parcels from
Coutances, *boudin noir* from Montebello-
au-Perche, *andouille* tripe sausage from
Vire, *porc-salé* lamb from the Cotentin and
Mont-St-Michel, and butter and cream
from Isigny. *Bénédictine* liqueur is made
(not by monks) at Fécamp. Calvados apple
brandy and *pommeau*, in which it is
mixed with apple juice, are widely sold.

WHAT TO DO

- Equestrian centres: Les Andelys, Arromanches-les-Bains, Avranches, Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, Barfleur, Barneville-Carteret, Le Bec Hellouin, Bellême, Cabourg, Clécy, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Coutainville, Deauville, Denerville-les-Bains, Dieppe, Fécamp, Fiers, Forges-les-Eaux, Granville, Hauteville-Plage, Honfleur, Hougate, Ivry-la-Bataille, Lyons-la-Forêt, Orbec, Ouistreham-Riva-Bella, Pont-d'Oulley, Portbail, St-Aubin-sur-Mer, St-Pair-sur-Mer, St-Vaast-la-Hougue, Siouville-Hague, Surtainville, Thury-Harcourt, Vieuxville-sur-Mer, Villers-sur-Mer, Yport.
- Canoeing: Thury-Harcourt, Pont-d'Oulley.
- Golf: Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, Cabourg, Clécy, Coutainville, Deauville, Dieppe, Etretat, Granville, St-Martin (Bréhal), St-Pierre-du-Vauvray.
- Fishing: many centres, on coast and river.
- Horse-racing: Ambrières-le-Grand, Les Andelys, Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, Cabourg, Coutainville, Deauville, Dieppe, Fécamp, Granville, Lisieux, Mers-les-Bains, Montebello-au-Perche, Vieuxville.
- Miterlight flying: on the Crêtes road, Saint-Omer, Suisse-Normande.
- Sailing, wind-surfing, water-skiing: Arromanches, Barneville-Carteret, Cabourg, Courseulles, Coutainville, Criel-Plage, Deauville, Fécamp, Granville, Hougate, Jullouville, Ouistreham-Riva-Bella, St-Vaast-la-Hougue, Le Tréport, Trouville, Vieux-les-Rosses, Vieuxville-sur-Mer, Villers-sur-Mer, Villerville.

WHEN TO GO

● The summer season is now in full swing along the coast, but the resorts will be very quiet from mid-September. The autumn months are a good time to be in the forests, and April and May, when the apple trees are in blossom, are ideal for the Pays d'Auge and the valley of the Seine.

● Principal forthcoming events:
July 4-5: Festival of the Sea, Fécamp. July 4-12: Jazz festival, Deauville. July 15-19: Jazz festival, Trouville. Mid-July and August: Festival of Musical Interludes, Mont-St-Michel. July and August: Music festival, Honfleur. July 15-September 30: Festival of Light, Bessin. August 1-9: Festival of New Comedy, Trouville. August 1-15: Medieval fête, Domfront. July and August: Piano festival, Carrouges. August 16: Traditional threshing and rural bygone festival, Juvigny-sous-Andaine. September: Classical music festival in the châteaux and churches of the Orne. September 4-6: Sainte-Croix horse fair, one of the biggest in France, at Lessay. September 12-20: Kite Festival, Dieppe. October: Music, drama and dance month in Rouen. October 17 and 18: Folklore Festival, Domfront. October 17-19: Apple Fair, Vimoutiers. November 14-15: Herring fair, Dieppe. December 21: Turkey fair, Sees.

● There is *son et lumière* at Lisieux Basilica from June-September; Château de Martainville-Epreville, June 26-August 1; Martinvast, June 25-July 25; and Piron, early August. The annual pilgrimage across the sands at Mont-St-Michel takes place at the end of July, depending on the tides.

● Note also for next year the three-day Black-Pudding Festival at Mortagne-au-Perche in mid-March, the May Day cattle branding of animals on the Maris-Vernier, the Coutances "Jazz in the Orchard" festival in the last week of May, and the Whitsum-side procession of the Charitons at Bernay.

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SATURDAY JUNE 20 1992

PROPERTY

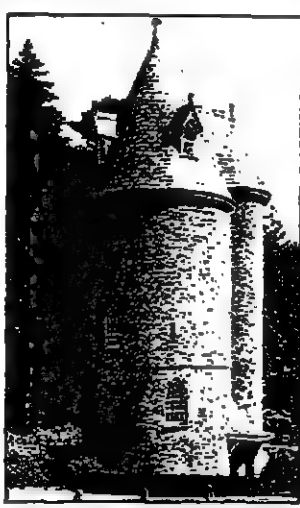
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From small beginnings in 1934 the National Trust now does big business in holiday cottages with a difference. Eluned Price sees what's on offer

Taking holidays on trust

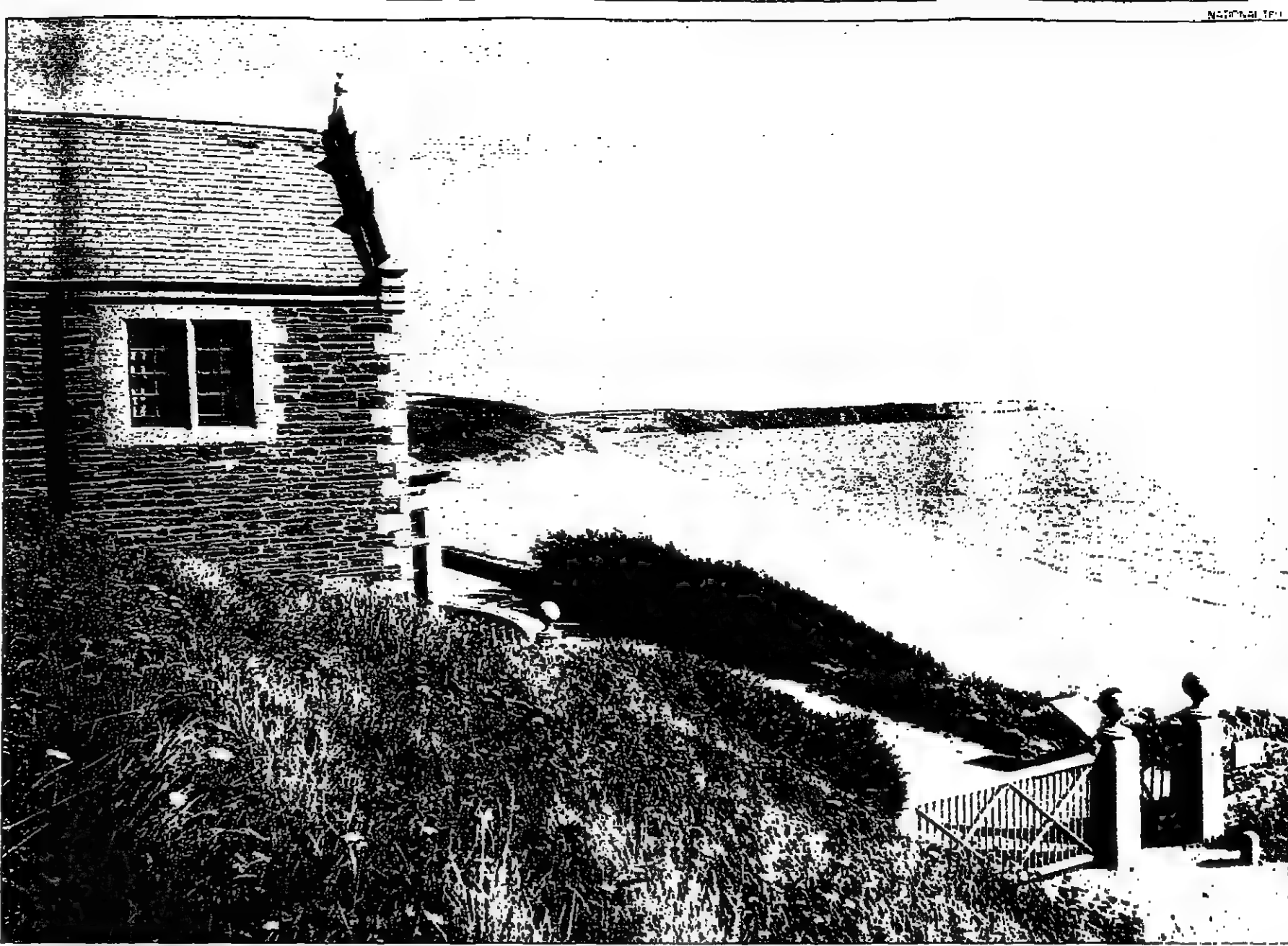
Until four years ago The National Trust had been hiding its holiday cottages under bushes of paperwork. "General enquiries were answered with tons of leaflets because every area did something different," says Anne Green, regional holiday cottages manager for Cornwall. "When they were amalgamated in one national brochure it improved things considerably." From small beginnings 34 years ago with the letting of the

ern coast with about a fifth on the north coast between Hardland Point and Padstow," Mrs Green says. "But we are very aware of local needs and the difficulties facing young married couples, for example, in rural areas popular with holiday-makers." On the Land's End peninsula, West Penwith, the trust owns more than 3,000 acres and most of the cottages are on a permanent basis to local people. Last summer, however, it decided to let Honor's House, an early 19th-century farmhouse adjoining the leased farm next door. "It stands virtually in the middle of the tenant's farmyard," says Peter Mansfield, regional land agent. "Using it for holiday lets avoids the territorial imperatives which go with permanent occupation."



Water Tower at Trefissick

Cornwall has seen exponential growth in the frequency of lettings: ten years ago, with much the same number of properties as there are now, the average let was 19 weeks per cottage, half of what it is today. Jean Mazurek, who manages Devon's cottages, reports a big increase in winter short breaks. "We have always kept the heating on anyway to preserve the fabric of the houses, but it's wonderful to have them lived in as well." Ranging from traditional thatched Devon long houses to a watchtower built into the walls of Compton Castle, a fortified medieval manor, "they are interesting but not imposing, and all are in lovely settings," Mrs Mazurek says, "even lovelier in the winter when there are not so many people about." Additions to her list this year include two cottages (£150-£395 a week) on the Coletton Fishacre estate, former



Cottage with delusions of grandeur: Bar Lodge is on the south Cornish coast, three miles from Helston overlooking Loe Bar: the turn-of-the-century house sleeps six

home of Lady Dorothy D'Oyly Carte, who made the delightful gardens, sheltering in a coomb running down to the sea.

The trust's most recent addition is a Welsh dower house, Garden Cottage, formerly the home of the Dowager Lady Powis. The house, built of stone in the early 19th century with an open fire in the large sitting/dining-room, sleeps six in three bedrooms. It stands within Powis Castle's spectacular gardens, which extend over 25 acres with a further ten acres of woodland. To one side is the fountain garden, to the other the formal garden, both laid out by Violet, wife of the 4th earl, in the 1910s. The cottage is being refurbished to a high standard, reflected

in the price band of £155 to £455 a week in the high season, and is due to open in May. A showcase for the trust's own range of paints and soft furnishings, the house is painted throughout in colours developed by Fowler and Ball for use in the trust's major historic houses.

Based on scrapings of paint from the 18th and 19th centuries with built-in ageing, they range from Ointment Pink, found in the dining-room at Calke Abbey, to Stone White, "a Palladian colour". The fabrics in the house come from G.P. & J. Baker's National Trust Country House Collection; the second bedroom, for example, is hung with Dunham Massey, a

design of rambling roses taken from a block-printed curtain in an 18th-century Cheshire mansion.

Even the carpet is National Trust. Marked by Gaskell Carpers of Blackburn and woven by Hethfields of Skipton, the carpet uses undyed wool from the Herdwick sheep of the Lake District. Nowadays shearing this hardy little breed costs more than the fleeces, so every step taken at Garden Cottage increases the likelihood of its preservation.

The most remote cottage on the trust's books also lies in North Wales. Ty Cipar (£140-£315 a week) on the Migneint moors was originally the gamekeeper's cottage for Lord Penrhyn's grouse moor. Four miles from the nearest village,

Ystyry Ifan, it looks across in the mountains of Arenig Fawr, 689m and 854m respectively. Without electricity, it is lit by gas — and the trust throws in a Tilley lamp or two as well as trout fishing on certain stretches of the Upper Conwy.

Dogs are welcome at a number of trust holiday cottages in England and Wales — at £12 a week per dog with a maximum of two, well-trained varieties — and not only welcome but free at most of the cottages of the National Trust for Scotland. The only exceptions are where they might worry the deer, says Mhairi Ellis at its Edinburgh headquarters. Stretching from Inverness to Castle Douglas on the Dumfriesshire coast, Scottish prop-

erties range from the Ferryman's cottage in Balmacara Bay at the Kyle of Lochalsh, looking over the sea to Skye (£190-£365 a week), to flats in Castle Fraser and Leith Hall near Aberdeen, and a ground-floor apartment in the justly famed Culzean Castle, Ayrshire. Their latest addition is a cottage on the 16,000-acre Torridon Estate, south of Inverewe (£150-£280 a week). Sleeping five, it is a single-storey, stone-built house.

For a copy of The National Trust Holiday Cottage Brochure, send a cheque or P.O. for 75p to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd, PO Box 101, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8BA. For details of cottages in Scotland send an SAE — A5 size — to The National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DL.

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Peaceful retreat: buy this partially restored cottage for £12,000

Lusher pastures, lower prices

The Mayenne, bordered by Normandy to the north and Brittany to the west, and easily reached from the Channel ports of Caen, Cherbourg and St Malo, remains largely undiscovered by British property buyers, and prices are low.

The attractive stone-built country cottage above, with a small outbuilding to the rear and pretty gardens back and front, is for sale at £12,000 (including agency fees). It is near the old market town of Couesmes, between Lassay and Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, at the edge of the Normandy Regional Park. The ferry port of St Malo can be reached in 90 minutes; allow about two hours to drive from the Normandy port of Caen (Ouistreham) and two and a half hours from Cherbourg.

Set at the end of a private drive containing one other cottage, the property has been partially renovated, but needs further renovation and modernisation, including the installation of a septic tank. The roof is in good order and the stonework has been repointed. It has two rooms downstairs, with new concrete floors, and a large attic that would easily convert into two bedrooms and a bathroom. (UK agent, Normandy & Brittany Cottages, 62 Chesson Road, London W14 071-381 4433.)

An area of lush undulating countryside, criss-crossed by rivers, the Mayenne has good fishing and riding and is worth considering for those who enjoy peace and quiet. There are a number of attractive towns in the area, including Ambrières-les-Vallees and Lassay, which has a splendid feudal castle.

Properties in the Mayenne are cheaper than in Normandy and Brittany, but often need modernising. Prices start at



Buyer's France

THE MAYENNE

£10,000 for a run-down ferme (farm cottage), and from £35,000 for a large habitable farmhouse with up to 15 acres of land.

CHERYL TAYLOR



House of her dreams: Fleur Cowles and the manor she restored

Boston English rose

Home from home: Fleur Cowles in Sussex

Princess Grace of Monaco once said admiringly of Fleur Cowles: "She is successful at whatever she does." The record proves this to be no mere hyperbole. Miss Cowles founded and edited the innovative American magazine, *Flair*, and was an associate editor of *Look*. In mid-life, on marrying and moving to England, she metamorphosed into a painter, and has had 43 solo exhibitions throughout the world. Her philanthropic interests are many and diverse.

To the list one might add her success as a home-maker. Her London base is in Piccadilly's historic Albany; her holiday home is a castle in Spain that she raised from a pile of rubble, so earning that country's highest decoration; her weekend home is an Elizabethan manor (six bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, study) in Sussex which she found, dilapidated, 36 years ago and has restored.

Even through sheets of bleak summer rain, it is a house to make you smile on first sight, the epitome of sketched charm, its roof tiles eiderdowned with moss. "My husband and I agreed we would buy no house we had to discuss," she says. "We saw this from the top of the hill: we both knew." She had planned the decoration before she set foot inside.

The interior is magical. She has

ignored the easy options of English oak and chintz for a collection of furniture, paintings and objects d'art which have little in common "except I had to have them". Yet they are visually cohesive, "because they were chosen by a single eye. I wouldn't invite any of my friends down at first in case they had a good idea, not even Tessa Kennedy (the renowned designer), who is like a daughter."

The armchairs in the library are the colour of Heinz tomato soup, as is the kelim on the wide polished floor boards. The plaster between studs is the exact shade of coffee ice cream. Bold paintings hang everywhere, proof of Miss Cowles' patronage of artists and her love of the nail in particular.

She herself paints on a sofa by the inglenook, her canvas, however large, flat on her lap, her house guests around her. "She paints and talks like other hostesses might do needpoint," says Ms Kennedy, who has duly arrived for lunch. She uses no reference but works straight from her imagination in raw, often primary, acrylics, having not the faintest idea at the beginning how the painting will evolve. Owners of her works include Lord Forte, Prince Huo of Japan, the Queen Mother and the Grimaldis.

Miss Cowles raises hospitality to an art form. One guest bedroom is named after the actress Leslie

Caron, the decor very chic but in miniature, with a compact four-poster bed from Denmark. In the attic is a more masculine suite created for Cary Grant, who was a friend. Next door, the room where she wrote her biography of Salvador Dali, (another friend whose foibles she tolerated for relish of his talent), is lined with photographs. There sits a haunting black and white Vivien Leigh, whose recipe for sardine soufflé the chef cooks for lunch; Yehudi Menuhin, who once strolled the woods below playing his violin, poses dramatically.

In summer, Miss Cowles hires a grand piano and holds concerts in her acoustically perfect barn. When she bought the property, its green inside. She had it restored, each roof tile being removed, numbered and re-used, and the interior painted pale blue to the consternation of the more conventional workers. As in the house, disparate rugs, some of which she has had woven to her own designs, dot the floor, and furniture and decorations come from far and wide, including a sculpture by a student at the RCA (she endows and inflation-proofs its major annual prize). Enormous glass doors to the swimming pool rise at the flick of a switch, the boyish electric gizmo of her husband, Tom Montague Meyer.

This weekend he was absent, in America promoting the medical charity Satellite, which transmits western know-how to the third world. He has done sterling work, also, for numerous hospitals in the UK since retiring from his timber company.

It was Mr Montague Meyer who landscaped the five-acre garden, earning himself the sobriquet "Capability Meyer" from Harold Macmillan. "He dug out four lakes, shifting some 30,000 tonnes of soil," says his wife. "I was restoring the Spanish castle: it took us each four years."

Miss Cowles devised the planting plans, including a hundred of the roses named after her. The rose family is "an obsession", her most recent book being *The Life & Times of The Rose*. Outside as in she has not clung to timid pastels, nor used traditional "room" dividers like yew hedges. The effect, however, is celebratorially English. How did she — a Bostonian born and bred — do it? "It comes easily to me," she says. "Since I was young I had always dreamed of living in England."

LOUETTE HARDING

Office plan for family home opportunity

Heap of the week: Great Barr Hall

On the map, Great Barr Hall looks condemned by Birmingham sprawl. In fact, its setting is unexpectedly idyllic: woods protect it on every side, and not a building is to be seen.

The estate was taken over in 1910 to become a large mental home, St Margaret's Hospital. An impressive horse-shoe of pleasant two-storey neo-Georgian buildings was laid out by the architect G. McMichael, looking south towards the entrance gates. These continue in use, surrounded by extensive lawns descending towards a long lake. Great Barr Hall is tucked away behind, and was last used in 1974 as administrative offices. Nearby is a long run of hospital buildings which could be converted to housing.

The hall is protected behind a wire mesh fence, with a nasty hut placed with spectacular insensitivity in front of it. The house was sold in 1988 by the regional health authority with about 150 acres to a developer who is now in receivership. Walsall District Council took the view that his proposals did not contain sufficient detail, and now the receivers, acting on behalf of the main creditor, the Midland Bank, are seeking permission to convert and extend the hall for use as offices, and create a golf course and clubhouse in the grounds. A better solution would be for the hall to be restored as a family house.

Great Barr Hall is in the castellated Regency gothic style associated with John Nash. The

earliest parts date from 1777, but Nash worked here with Repton in 1801, making Great Barr one of their earliest joint commissions. The house was built for Samuel Scott, and in 1867 Gilbert Scott, architect of the Foreign Office and St Pancras station, added a chapel in polychrome brick.

The house has been left to decay into a shocking state, but the golden stucco retains much of its lustre. Restoration of the hall would secure the future of a landscape setting of the greatest value to Birmingham and Staffordshire.

MARCUS BINNEY

For further information: Grimley J.R. Ewe 021-236 8236 and Peter Arnold, at Walsall Council 0922 650000.



Laid waste: the shocking, neglected state of Great Barr Hall

Muddles of midsummer

Francesca Greenoak sniffs the scent of work to be done on her prolific plants

The alternating sun and rain of the past few weeks have caused even sober plants to grow immoderately: the honeysuckle around my front door has long passed the picturesque country-cottage stage and almost prevents access. Although the bottles of milk stay cool in its cavernous shade, the hall is perpetually shaded.

The honeysuckle, now in flower, is exuding its unique summer fragrance, but I have to harden my heart and cut it back. I have rather turned my eyes from the problem — no one in the family uses the front door — but in addressing the honeysuckle I have rediscovered a corner of the garden which has remained unheeded for some time. Between the honeysuckle and the cascading foliage of the medlar tree in the hedge, there is an overgrown recess which my young daughter uses as a secret retreat.

I was delighted to find that a field rose (*Rosa arvensis*), which I grew from a cutting from the hedgerow, is almost 6ft high, and the field maple, transplanted as a seedling, equals it. There's a tump of geraniol-scented *Ingwerson's Variety* hardy geranium, with floppy leaves and soft, pink flowers, and, best of all, the incense rose, *Rosa primula*.

The foliage of this small species rose has an exquisite high church scent, particularly after rain. It is rare and notoriously difficult to propagate. I tried three times to buy it — getting misnamed specimens — before I finally obtained the true

species, but as it grew so slowly I had half-forgotten its existence, until this year it produced a lovely spray of small yellow roses and several new branches. There are also lilies: the tall *Lilium regale* with large white trumpets, crimson-blossomed on the outside, and the strongly scented green-gold Pyrenean lily (*Lilium pyrenaicum*).

A flash of silken pink reveals the presence of the native gladiolus, flowering bravely despite the area having become distinctly shadier. Agapanthus, too, keeps going, though it would like more sun.

Crowded in between are clumps of marjoram and salad burnet, self-seeded columbines and plenty of the pink herb Robert, which I am trying to keep isolated from the white form, which is on the other side of the house.

Though unruly, this garden has kept a shape because of several good perennials, and it has been very agreeable to sit there planning what to do. I have decided on major work only on the honeysuckle, which I will cut back severely after it has flowered, curtailing its territorial advance and thinning out the old wood. With more light the sun-loving plants should pick up.

I want to retain the attractive air of midsummer muddle, so I am confining myself to weeding out the worst congestions. In September, I shall tidy up properly to show off the tiny pompons of the old-fashioned *Anastasia chrysanthemum*, and autumn colours of the geraniums and field maple.



Haven rediscovered: Francesca Greenoak enjoys some of the forgotten plants in a "secret retreat"

WEEKEND TIPS

- Pick and dead-head roses to encourage more blooms (check for aphids at the same time).
- Keep newly planted seedlings (and maturing celery and courgettes) well watered.
- Continue to sow salad vegetables to provide through summer and autumn.
- Divide congested bearded lilies after the flowers have faded: replant healthy rhizomes.
- Prune brooms to maintain a good shape, taking young growth back by about half.



Prize-winning style: the M&S entry at the Hampton Court show

HAMPTON COURT SHOW OFFER

READERS are invited to a special day out at the Hampton Court International Flower Show on Saturday, July 11. Guests will be admitted at 9.30am (half an hour before the public opening), have use of a reserved marquee (where Francesca Greenoak will be delighted to meet them) for morning coffee and pastries, followed by champagne and canapés. A complimentary bar will be open from 11am-5pm, and a four-course lunch will be accompanied by wines, port and brandy. In the afternoon there will be strawber-

ries and cream. The show — from Wed July 8 to Sun July 12 — includes the British Rose Festival. Tickets cost £82.25 per person, including VAT, entrance, car parking and catalogue. ● For credit card reservations, please phone 081-891 4565. ● Cheques, payable to "Payne & Gunter/Times Special Account", should be sent to: The Times Offer, Payne & Gunter, Rugby Road, Twickenham TW1 1DZ. For show information ring 081-977 0050 during office hours, or 0898 334500 at any time.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

EGON RONAY

Food expert

Where would you go? Venice. No other city has survived so well in its original form, as paintings by Canaletto testify.

Where would you stay? The Cipriani, the most beautifully situated, best run and most sybaritic hotel in my experience.

Who would be your perfect companion? A friend who is a professor at Columbia University in New York. We spent eight years together at the School of the Piarist Fathers in Budapest, and we have an old boys' two-man reunion in Venice every year.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? A pair of comfortable, light shoes and my swimming trunks. Having spent two or three hours each morning walking and re-visiting some of my favourite sights, I would swim in the Cipriani's near-Olympic sized pool and experience nirvana in the sun.

What would you eat? I would have lunch by the pool — jellied consommé, cold lobster with mayonnaise, and as many peaches as I could manage. What would you have to drink? A good, dry spritzanté.

What would you like to read? Marguerite Yourcenar's autobiography, *Dear Departed*, and *Citizens*, by Simon Soham, about the French revolution.

What music would you listen to? Anything that happens to be on at the 18th-century la Fenice, the prettiest opera house there is.

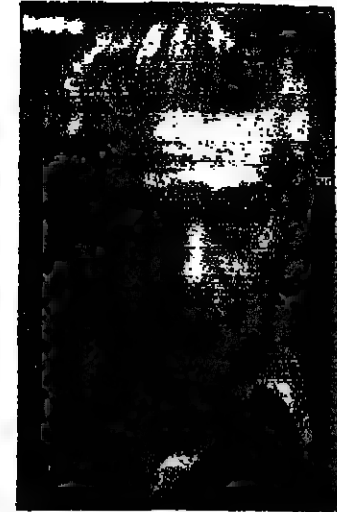
What would you watch on television? Nothing. Sensibly, television sets at the Cipriani are hidden away. They are sunk into the table and only rise at the press of a button.

What films would you watch? It would be a waste of precious time, which always runs out so fast in this magical city.

Would you play any games or sport? I would swim ten lengths before lunch.

What luxury would you take? Three pounds of my son Gerard's hand-made chocolates.

What piece of art would you like to have there? Giovanni Bellini's painting of Saint Christopher, which is part of the polyptych of St Vincent Ferrer in Santi Giovanni e Paolo



church, and one of the 9th or 10th-century Byzantine drinking vessels from the Treasury of the Basilica di San Marco. Who would be your least welcome guest? A food terrorist telling me what not to eat.

What three things would you leave in Venice? A room reservation for the following year, the Byzantine cup in the hotel safe, and a generous tip for Gianni, the world's most helpful concierge and a connoisseur of trattorie.

What three things would you most like to do? Swim a few lengths in the hotel pool at midnight; cruise the Canal Grande on a vaporetto (water bus) on my own as slowly as possible, with a guide to the palazzi in one hand; and visit the Roman Catholic Armenian monastery on the island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni to see its fabulous ancient codices.

To whom would you send a postcard? No one. I loathe writing postcards.

What souvenir would you bring home? Eight paper-thin wine glasses and a large sculpted glass bowl from the modern glass shop behind the Piazza di San Marco. Alas, I have always found glass obscenely expensive.

What would you like to find when you get home? That Bellini painting.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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٥٥ خزائن الاصل

Take a seat in the sunshine

Today's garden furniture is looking better than ever, Nicole Swengley writes

Stylish recliners, seats and hammocks are raising a fresco lounging to an art form. And now that, between the showers, British summers seem to be getting sunnier, sitting outside is no longer something to be enjoyed only on Mediterranean holidays.

Garden furniture has come a long way since the Victorians mastered the manufacturing of cast-iron seating. Standards of design and workmanship have improved noticeably in the past few years, perhaps boosted by the popularity of conservatories.

Ryle Designs, listed in the *Friends of the Earth Good Wood Guide* as an environmentally conscious supplier, has introduced a teak rocking lounger (about £350) and also makes the adjustable Winchelsea lounger (£630), which can be flattened for sunbathing and has a slide-out drinks table.

At £2,500, the company's Crusader swing seat, with adjustable canopy, must be considered a garden heirloom, its teak frame weathering to a silvery-grey over time. Maintenance-free tree seats are another speciality.

An Edwardian-style folding steamer chair by Sarah Burgoyne Revivals combines comfort and elegance with fine workmanship. Its beech frame, adjustable cotton canvas sun canopy and cushions and brass drink holder re-create the lazy look of shipboard sun-decks (£295 plus delivery).

A two-seater steamer settee is made by the Herefordshire-based company Steamer Furniture, along with a steamer armchair, footstool and side-table. Designed for comfort and supplied with cushions, the seat and back conform to the user's shape and all the pieces are light enough to carry.

The range is available in English ash or elm mixed with cherry wood, or plantation-grown teak from sustainable sources in Java and Nigeria. Mail-order prices range from £183.91 for an elm armchair to £745.87 for a teak settee. Footstools start from £75.57 (carriage extra). London stockists include The Chelsea Gardener.

Victorian garden seats in good condition command high prices at auction. Copies of historical designs are a cheaper alternative, with variations on Sir Edwin Lutyens's Jekyll bench leading the field. An exact copy of the 8ft 8in bench costs

£805 in oak from Robin Eden, while smaller versions cost from £651 for a 6ft 3in seat in painted pine.

Pattern books of the 18th and 19th centuries were raided in Julian Chichester's efforts to create timeless designs which are well-proportioned and decorative.

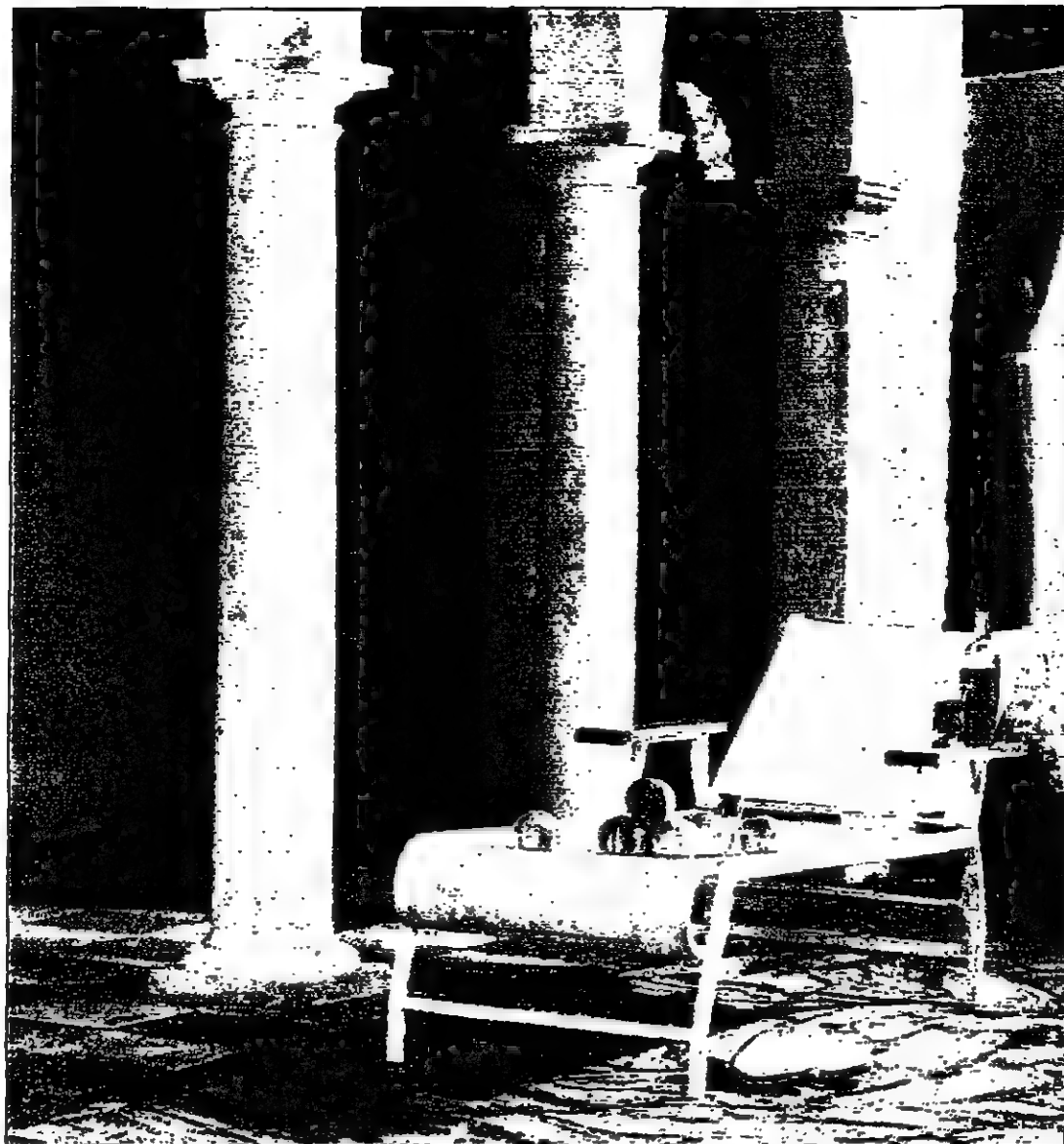
The joinery at Chatsworth House makes a range of furniture based on earlier designs. One of the more unusual pieces, useful for moving frequently between sun and shade, is a Lutyens seat combining bench and wheelbarrow, reproduced from the garden at Mount Congreve, co. Waterford, Ireland. The seat is made of north European redwood, painted white (£709) or left primed for treatment (£626).

Wrought-iron, popular in the mid-19th century, was used for flower stands and troughs as well as seating. Barnsley House Garden & Decorative Furnishings acts as the UK agent for a range of historic iron garden furniture inspired by collections in the Smithsonian Institution.

Charles Verey, the name behind Barnsley House GDF, lifted the traditional garden bench out of the doldrums of municipal park lookalikes and gave it a touch of class. The son of the well-known gardener Rosemary Verey, his designs are pleasing and practical. This summer he has added to his 19th-century inspired wrought-iron range while new dining chairs and tables join the classic benches and armchairs in the teak range. Also in teak is a sun-deck recliner and a folding chair, well suited to hobbies such as painting or fishing. All the furniture can be bought at the shop in Barnsley House Gardens in Gloucestershire or ordered through The Chelsea Gardener.

Classic conservatory furniture, handmade in English willow, is available at Marston & Langinger. Because it is made in Norfolk and Somerset, rather than imported, non-standard designs can be produced at short notice with cushions in a choice of fabrics.

New this summer is a range of English willow designs with deep-buttoned upholstery fixed to the furniture for a more formal look. Painted willow furniture is another introduction. The paint is water-based, so it is pliable and will not chip or crack.



Art of lying low: relax and make yourself comfortable on one of the new breed of stylish loungers

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Living in a material world

The new Thomas Dare fabric shop has an international feel

There is a cosmopolitan history to the new furnishing fabric and trimming shop, Thomas Dare. The designer and co-ordinator of the checked, striped, spotted and plain materials and reams of braids is American, the shop's financial backers and producers of the cloth are Indian, while the furniture and fittings are in Dutch Colonial style.

Only Andrew Thomson, the shop manager, appears to be indigenous to this country. All 150 of Thomas Dare's exclusive hand-woven cotton fabrics are designed by Becky Overman, who is based in Cape Cod, New England. She not only puts together the colour themes for the fabrics and braids, but also regularly travels to India to oversee production and ensure the quality of the materials.

The cream tongue and groove walls of the shop give it a light and airy feel, and the greyish purple and yellow Dutch colonial furniture and display chests give easy viewing and access to the materials. "We have designed the shop to make buying pleasurable," says Mr Thomson, who worked with interior designer Sasha Waddell on the scheme.

"The fabrics and trimmings are shown in colour themes to make it easy for the customer to select. We have tried to take the lessons learnt in the past ten years of clothes fashion retailing and use them for interior fashion." During the 20 years Mr Thomson previously spent with the fashion company Jaeger, he was responsible for opening its chain of shops in America and for re-styling the flagship store in Regent Street.

In Thomas Dare at present, all the fabrics are geometric or plain, although a new line of hand-woven paisley designs will be introduced soon. The plains, checks and stripes

have been designed to co-exist with the more traditional British taste for flowery chintzes. The materials come in a spectrum of colours from beige, grey and black through pastel shades of blues, yellow and pink to rich, vibrant shades of crimson, cranberry and green.

The shop partly takes its name from one of the founders, William Dare, who left England in the early 1800s to set up a trading company in Madras, India.

The company grew and in time was taken over. It is now wholly owned by Mungappa, one of India's largest general trading groups with interests as diverse as tea plantations and bicycle manufacturing. Other branches of the company supply many of our top interior design and decorating names with fabrics manufactured for their own labels.

This first Thomas Dare is a pilot shop, and the materials it stocks cannot be found anywhere else in Europe. If this first outlet maintains the success of its first few weeks of trading, it is hoped to open another branch by autumn. Other branches in cities such as Bath and York should follow next year.

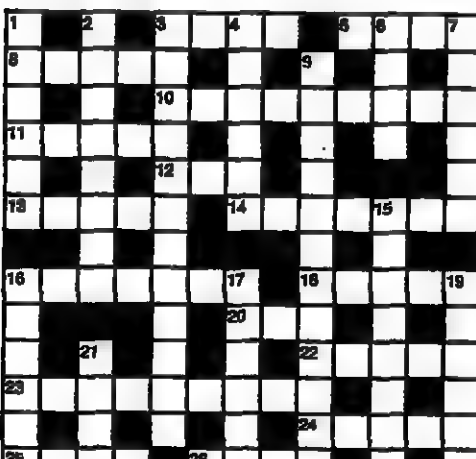
Thomas Dare is situated in the World's End area of the King's Road, which is fast becoming an interior design and fabric enclave. Thomas Dare is opposite the shop of designers Turner Fowler, next door is Anna French, and towards Sloane Square are Osborne & Little and Designers Guild.

VINNY LEE

● Thomas Dare is at 341 King's Road, London SW3 5ES (071-351 7991). Fabrics are from £13.95 to £20.95 a metre, trimmings start from £2.95 a metre for a twisted 20cm rope to £38.50 for an elaborate haute couture tassel.

Telephone 071 481 4000

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 2820



ACROSS
1 Lofy (4)
5 Mining waste (4)
8 Jargon (5)
10 Saints relief casings (9)
11 Subs (5)
12 Concious self (3)
13 Pleasant-smelling (5)
14 Wall coating (7)
16 Sailor's sword (7)
20 Detective (5)
22 Knightly combat area (5)
23 Columns row (9)
24 By oneself (5)

DOWN
2 Not all (4)
3 Miserly (4)
4 Starting braces (6)
6 Occurrence (8)
7 Shrewd bargaining (5, 7)
9 Fast horse pace (6)
10 Dog leash (4)
11 Steam spring (6)
12 Above reproach (7, 5)
13 Discuss business (4, 4)
14 Roman stadium (6)
15 Aerially machine gun (6)
16 Saxon kingdom (6)
17 Criticise harshly (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2819
ACROSS: 1 Object, 2 Asdic, 3 Hug, 4 Crater, 5 Ice-
box, 6 Wire, 7 Finnish, 8 Two-way, 9 13 Re,
10 Pony tail, 11 Rush, 12 Starve, 13 Martin,
14 Pro, 15 Right, 16 Potage.
DOWN: 2 Berle Wooster, 3 Either way, 4 Thrifty,
5 Agile, 6 Dye, 7 Cries-dressing, 8 Desert rat,
9 Rollmap, 10 Adept, 11 Rig.

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Meister - Brynell, London 1980. Black has a powerful queen and bishop lineup on the a1-h8 diagonal. Can you see how he made the most of it?

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1... Qxh3. The winners are: B. Holgate, Chisbury; E. Elington, Fleet; C.E.A. Read, London SE23.

THE TIMES RENTALS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The 1992 Annual General Meeting of Convocation, at which the election of representatives of Convocation on Court will take place, will be held on Saturday, 18th July 1992, at 11.00am in the Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, 288 1st. All graduates and members of the academic staff of the University are welcome to attend.

Further information and the current Convocation booklet may be obtained from Dr M.J. Crossley Evans, the Assistant Secretary of Convocation, University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol BS8 1TH.

LEGAL NOTICES

NO 006614 of 1992 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 4th day of June 1992 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company to £800,000.00 AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is to be heard before the Hon. Mr Justice Nourse on the 29th day of June 1992. Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel or by Advocate.

A copy of the said Petition was furnished to any such persons requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the requisite charge for the same. Dated the 20th day of June 1992. Messrs. Clarke, Clark & Co., 67/68 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3JA Solicitors for the above named Company.

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.R.M. Welcome back the summer holidays are here. All are welcome. A.R.M. Welcome back the summer holidays are here. All are welcome. A.R.M. Welcome back the summer holidays are here. All are welcome.

WANTED

Holiday Cottages Wanted

Premier marketing Agency urgently seeks quality properties in Devon, Cornwall and Dorset for its 1993 programme. Massive advertising schedule, direct mail campaign and a superb full-colour brochure will support next year's campaign.

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CHILSEA Flat to share. Large single bedroom (double bed), own bathroom, shower, kitchen, living room, dining room, study, terrace. Ring 071 362 3029 after 6.45 pm.

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport** (r) (17537) 7.00 **The Clangers** (2718353) 7.10 **The Wombles: Animation** (r) (3465623) 7.15 **Onide** (2797860) 7.30 **The Bluffers** (r) (1743334) 7.55 **Chicken Minute** 's (3131421) 8.30 **Pugwall** (48004) 9.00 **Little Shop** Cartoon comedy musical (6195773)

9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan** Epic Indian drama (8905150)

10.00 **Dispatches** Current affairs series (r) (3203228)

10.45 **Dennis** Cartoon adventures (r) (7370605) 11.00 **Beet** That Young people tackle challenges (r) (55158)

11.10 **Flipper** Classic adventures of the friendly dolphin (6247)

12.00 **Little House on the Prairie** The trials and tribulations of a close-knit family (80518)

1.00 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea** Underwater adventures (583792)

1.55 **Film: Best Foot Forward** (1943). Routine musical starring Lucille Ball as a film star who, with her career on the wane, accepts an invitation to a graduation ball. Directed by Edward Buzzell (8986989)

3.40 **Torn to the Wind** Peter Barkworth narrates a documentary about windmills (5091636)





Titters ahoy: the late Frankie Howard sets sail (10.00pm)

8.00 **Hard News:** David Jessel investigates how a ten-year campaign by a small Preston shopkeeper to vilify a left-wing millionaire businessman led to damaging articles in the press (2063)

8.30 **Without Walls Special**

● **CHOICE:** Coinciding with the Richard Hamilton retrospective which is just opening at the London Tate gallery, Mark James, film of a portrait of the pioneering pop artist which is also a wider discourse on popular art. During the 1950s Hamilton taught art at Newcastle University where one of his pupils was Bryan Ferry, later of Roxy Music. Hamilton's celebration of everyday objects and mass culture found a ready echo in Ferry, who came to share his tutor's enthusiasm for American cars, images of Hollywood cinema and the like. Marcel Duchamp and the artist went into how Duchamp repays the compliment by saluting Ferry's achievement as a pop icon. Other tributes to Hamilton come from Paul McCartney, recalling the bold, all-white sleeve for a Beatles album, and the science fiction writer J.G. Ballard. (37179)

9.30 **Four-Medians UK:** Secret Passions featuring the making of the attraction to be seen at the BFI screening (81247)

10.00 **Life! Shooting Stars** (1990). A girl's dream date with a football star goes wrong when he is taken hostage by a gang of teenagers who crash into his car. A funny, hard-edged take, written by Barry Hines of Kes and directed by Chris (A Letter to Breznev) Bernard

11.40 Four-Mile-Run UK: Cowboys by Phil Mulloy (518204) **11.50 Naked** by Yasmine Ramli (118268) **12.00 Spirit of Place** by Oliver Harrison (5844174) **12.10 Soho Square** by Mano Cavali (5031280)

12.25am Film: Le Petit Soldat (1960). Jean-Luc Godard's politically charged thriller in which a French army deserter is ordered to kill a Swiss radio commentator during the war in Algeria. In French with

Agenda 6.30 New
underfull Film: Car

TYNE TYNES
As London ends, 12.30pm-1.00 The
Big Breakfast (19707) 1.00-1.30
Corporates and Castles (773) 4.30-
5.00 Gauding Mountain Like Snow (52695)
Criminals Earthworms (537) 5.30-
6.00 The 6.00pm Travel World Show (7573)
7.00 The Wombles (24765954) 7.10 Oude and
the Wombles (3495954) 7.15 The Buffers
(747334) 7.30 Chicken Madness (438)
8.30 Puggly (1488332) 8.35 Lure House
(773) 8.45 Lure House (142442) 1
9.00 Bull (70955) 10.00 Village to the Bottom
of the Sea (31510) 11.00 Little House on the Prairie
(1551131) 12.00 Now You're Famous
(1551131) 1.45 San Stefano 1959/392
2.00 The 12.30-2.30 Q&A
Presents

ULSTER
As London ends, 12.30pm-1.00 Garden-
ers' Paradise (1707) 1.01-1.04 Farming
(773) 3.40 Highway to Heaven (52695) 3.50
6.00 Coronation (52695) 6.30-7.00
The 6.30-7.00 Q&A Presents

W
(656959) 1.35 American Mail (35830) 8.00
2.35 Pop of the Week (64303) 8.30 All
Blondes Come Later (142442) 9.00
Label (447980) 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder
(5852716)

S4C
The 6.00pm Travel World Show (7573)
7.00 The Wombles (24765954) 7.10 The
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(1551131) 12.00 Now You're Famous
(1551131) 1.45 San Stefano 1959/392
2.00 The 12.30-2.30 Q&A
Presents

9.15 Fragile
Vietnam 168

5.55am Shipping 6.00am News
Briefing 6.00 News 6.03
Weather 6.10 Prelude with
Margaret Loughouse (c 6.30)
News Morning Hair Broken
with Jack Mywell-Davies
including Bells On Sunday (c
6.55 Weather 7.00 News 7.10
Sunday News 7.15 On Your
Farm 7.40 Sunday Int 7.55
Weather 8.00 News 8.10
Sunday Papers 8.50 Vincent
Hanna speaks for the Week's
Good Cause about the work
of Carers National Association
8.55 Weather

9.00 News
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter from America, by
Alistair Cooke (c)
9.30 Morning Service, from All
passport, they will have to put
up a better case than John
McKay does tonight. The Scots
humanist's list of radical puny
quotations is not too impressive;
party snuff, stout-rightness and
teeth like sponges. Also,
He will not endorse himself to
the passport police, but by
reminding them of the popular
belief that Scotland is a penal
colony, and that its stay-punt,
convicts are deeply resentful of
their having been let out
on remand 5.30 Shipping 5.35
Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Feedback, Chris Dunkley (c
6.30 Europhile (c)
7.00 Who Believes in Britain?
Mike Woodhouse meets

57
Bnt:

Wainwright (3)
1:30 Pick of the Week, with Chris
 12:15 PM Desert Island Discs: Terry
 Waite & Sue Lawley's castaway
 12:55 Weather
1.00 The Good Thing This Weekend
 with Nick Clarke 1:55 Shopping
 gardeners' Question Time.
 The team votes for
3:30 Sunday Playhouse, Roscoe's
 Time. Don Haworth's moving
 and evocative portrait of a
 struggling to make a living
 from the land, and of
 Roscoe - the man whose
 sudden appearance transforms
 the fortunes of a farming
 community. Kenneth
 Cranham, Russell Dizon
 and Geoffrey Banks (s) (r)
3.30 The Radio Programme: The
 Secret Life of the Continuity
 Announcer by Laurie Taylor (s)
4.00 Analysis: Down To Business (r)
4.45 The Ecstasy Island
 Ecclesiastes joins Michael Rosen
 to look at new fiction for older
 children
5.00 Down Your Way: Brian
 Johnston celebrates his
 eightieth birthday with a trip
 to his home in Dorset
5.40 Asbestos's Foot
 ● CHOICE: Assuming the day
 will eventually dawn when
 asbestos is banished, we
 will be able to apply for a Scottish
 visible sign of commitment to
 the tenets of this distinct faith,
 the church believes in
 tolerance and hope, sometimes
 separatist, ideals
7.30 Bookshelf: A June day
 in Dublin, as experienced by
 Leopold Bloom, becomes the
 subject of James Joyce's novel
 Ulysses. Nigel Farber explores
 Joyce's Dublin with the author
 of a new biography, Peter
 Costello (s) (r)
8.00 The Church of England
 Spong, Bishop of Newark USA,
 will argue that misogyny and
 large numbers of repressed
 homosexuals in the hierarchy
 of the church have contributed to
 an anti-woman bias
9.00 The Cultural History
 Programme with Jessica Holm
 (r)
9.30 Special Assignment (r) 9.59
 Another
10.00 News
10.15 The Adventures of Sherlock
 Holmes: The Engineer's
 Thumb (s) (r)
11.00 Fourth Column Revisited
11.20 Seeds of Faith. The Way
 of the Heart: Suni Olofinla
 explores the mystical Sufi tradition in
 Islam (s)
12.00-12.30am News Int 12.20
 World 12.33 Shipyard
12.43 World Service (LW) only

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m, 108.9kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8 Radio
 1: FM-88.90-2 Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4 Radio 4: 138.5kHz/215.5m; FM-92.4-2

Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m, FM 94.9; World

SERVICE: MIVV GAGGERS-CHIEF.

BBC1

- 6.35 **Open University**: Mission from Mars 7.00 Clumping In Groups (45:59-47.25) News and Weather (3:47/46:49)
 7.30 **Hallo Spencer**: Puppet fun (1:00/86:43) 7.50 **Babar**: Cartoon (80:19/59) 8.15 **The Jetsons**: Cartoon (88:26/198) 8.35 **Round the Twist**: Australian fantasy (26:59/31)
 9.00 **Parallels**: 9 - Jaffar Mark joins Roddy Maude-Roxby, Helen Atkins, Jenny Scott, Dominic Fitch and Kevin Williams. There is also a look forward to National Music Day on June 28 (17:33/310) 10.47 **Weather** (85:27/37)
 10.50 **Grandstand** introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is as follows (subject to alteration): 10.55, 2.05, 2.35, 3.05 and 4.00 Cricket: live coverage of the third day of the second Test of the Comhill Insurance series between England and Pakistan at Lord's; 1.00 News; 1.05 Football: a preview of the semi-finals of the European championship to be played on Sunday and Monday; 1.30, 2.05, 2.35 and 3.40 Tennis: finals of the Pilkington Glass women's championship from Eastbourne; 1.55, 2.25, 2.55 and 3.30 Racing from Ascot: the Ritz Club Fern Hill Handicap Stakes (2.00), Haagen-Dazs Handicap Stakes (2.30), Grand Met Handicap Stakes (3.00) and southern Comfort Stakes (3.35); 4.45 Golf: closing second round action from the US Open championship at Pebble Beach, California (70:12/66:55)
 5.10 **News and weather** (66:08/27)
 5.20 **Regional News and weather** (14:27/77)
 5.25 **Jim'll Fix It**: Jimmy Saville fixes for a postman to have a hearty Scottish breakfast in a state home, and for a man to learn how to reverse his caravan without mishap (44:09/352)



Welcome to the empire: Chris Barrie and helpers (6.00pm)

- 6.00 **The Brittas Empire**: Dim comedy starring Chris Barrie as the bumbling and autocratic manager of a council leisure centre (6.00/407)
 6.30 **That's Showbusiness**: Mike Smith is joined by Lesley Joseph, Kevin Lloyd, Craig Charles and Windsor Davies in the showbusiness quiz show (75:59)
 7.00 **Keeping Up Appearances**: Patricia Routledge stars as the indomitable snob in Roy Clarke's comedy series. In this episode her social aspirations receive a boost when she and Richard are invited to a golfing weekend with the major. With Clive Swift and Peter Cullen (1:00/45:31) (1:05:55)
 7.30 **Growing Pains**: The Lady and the Tramp. Ray Brooks and Sharon Duce star in this likeable drama about the effects on a family of fostering children. Tom's long-lost father makes an unexpected appearance and the household is faced by the arrival of a sophisticated 11-year-old. (CeeFax) (s) (36:58/27)
 8.20 **Casualty**: Sins of omission. Gritty hospital drama series. Peggy Mount and Charlotte Connell join the regular cast in tonight's episode in which Kelly goes missing and a vagrant takes advantage of free food while posing as a porter (1:00/45:31) (1:43:35)
 9.15 **News with Maryn Lewis**. (CeeFax) Sport and weather (48:77/8)
 9.35 **That's Life!** With Esther Rantzen (62:59/4)
 10.15 **Film: Remo - Unarmed and Dangerous** (1985). Fred Ward plays a New York policeman who is trained to take on an arms baron in a stylish action-adventure directed by Guy Hamilton. (CeeFax) (s) (75:48/8)
 12.00 **Film: Miracles** (1985). Tom Conti and Teri Garr star in this hectic comedy about the far-reaching effects of a witch doctor's plea to the gods. Directed by Jim Kouf. (CeeFax) (92:32/28)
 1.25am **Weather** (39:58/41)

The numbers now appear on the 400 TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 111304 (calls charged at 10p per minute incl. 5p of overhead) or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+ and VideoPlus are trademarks of Gerni Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.40 **Open University**: Book Polynomials 7.05 Maths: Networks and Matrices 7.30 Geology: Interpreting Sediments 7.55 Images: Lens Design 8.20 Tennyson: A Case Study 8.45 Interactive Video 9.10 Care in the Community 9.35 Growing Old 10.00 Measure for Measure: Workshop 10.25 Matter in the Universe: Red Giants 10.50 Planet in Perspective 11.15 Pathfinding in the Brain 11.40 Data Models and Databases (44:06/66:22) 12.05 Fundamentals of Computing 12.30 Talking to the Tea 12.55 Ottoman Supremacy: The Suleiman, Istanbul 1.20 The Burden of Representation 1.45 Eyewitness Memory 1.50 Religion: Sals in Britain 2.35 Managing Schools: Power of the Pursue (80:09/36:51)
 3.00 **Film: Summer Stock** (1950). Agreeable musical starring Judy Garland as a farmer whose life is changed when a show is staged in her barn. With Gene Kelly and Phil Silvers. Directed by Charles Walters (78:58/32:55)
 4.45 **Cricket**: Second Test. Further coverage of the third day's play between England and Pakistan from Lord's (s) (41:78/77:2)
 6.30 **The Human Element**
 ● CHOICE: Tonight's featured element in the watchable science series is carbon and the personal story woven around it is that of Carl Djerassi, the organic chemist whose work led to the discovery of the contraceptive pill. The son of two doctors, Djerassi grew up in Vienna, left Austria when Hitler moved in and made his career in the United States. An account of his professional work, much of it spent investigating steroids, is intercut with the tragedy of his artist daughter who committed suicide in 1978. He believes she was a victim of loneliness and in her memory he established an artists' colony in California where composers, painters and choreographers can meet and inspire each other. The film traces two other strands in Djerassi's life, a developing interest in feminism and a second career as a novelist (s) (37:11)
 7.00 **News and sport with Nicky Stuart**. Weather (17:27/59)
 7.15 **Have I Got News For You?** News quiz (s) (24:22/23)
 7.45 **Rhythms of the World: Klezmer - a Fiddler on the Roof**. Originally performed by the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, the dance music Klezmer is enjoying a big revival in the United States (s) (37:62/04)



Hoping to go far in the film world: Daniel Moss (8.40pm)

- 8.40 **Teenage Diaries: The World's Greatest Director**
 ● CHOICE: Daniel Moss is a precocious 13-year-old determined to be the Steven Spielberg of Golden Green. At this rate he will make it for he is nothing if not determined and he has cheek in plenty. He is so self-assured, not to say bossy, that attempts to drag the family into this video film are often abortive. His father is so pushy his father and mother before the camera and demand that they talk about him for five minutes. Not surprisingly this brashness leaves them tongue-tied, no doubt wishing he would shut up and go away. "You don't have to live with him", brother Luke tells us, "you can switch the television off. But we can't". All the same Daniel is an engaging young chap, with undeniable talent and energy to go with his sizeable ego, and whether we like it or not we shall probably hear a lot more of him (75:40/7)
 9.35 **Golf**: 12. Open. Steve Baker introduces coverage of the closing stages of the third round from Pebble Beach in California (32:43/31)
 12.00 **Cricket**: Second Test. Highlights of the third day's play between England and Pakistan at Lord's (s) (47:26)
 12.30am **Not Necessarily the News**: Inside Entertainment. An irreverent look at Hollywood award ceremonies. An intrepid news team tries to capture the glamour and excitement of the annual Golden Calf awards (66:09/57)
 1.20 **Night**: Creators. John Astin from *The Addams Family* hosts a celebration of 80 years of movie monsters (74:55/18). Ends at 2.05

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (15:57/32:29)
 9.25 **Gimme 5**: With Sami, Tommy Mallett, Bedazzled, John Hefley and Glen Kasey (27:19/25:25)
 11.30 **Zorro**: Swashbuckling adventures (26:51)
 12.00 **The ITV Chat Show** (s) (89:62)
 1.00 **News** with Sue Carpenter. Weather (62:19/59:4) 1.05 **LWT News** (62:19/59:4)
 1.10 **Saint and Gravel**: Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview the European football championship semi-final (35:13/37)
 1.55 **WOW World Wrestling**: More grunt, grapple and groan from the United States (67:54/66:2)
 2.35 **McCloud**: Earning Dennis Weaver as the cowboy marshall McCloud sirs: Mezz: Cry searching for a woman suspected of murdering her brother-in-law (1:23/25:33)
 4.30 **Only Fools and Horses**: Bradley Walsh, Dave Lee and Dave Wolfe invite members of the public to inflict their funny stories on the viewers (s) (31:0)
 5.00 **News** with Sue Carpenter. Weather (1:25/310) 5.05 **LWT News** and weather (68:13/10)
 5.15 **Severly Hills**: 90210. Teenage drama series about the impossibly beautiful pupils of a California high school. (Oracle) (s) (58:76/81)
 6.10 **Bob's Your Uncle**: Bob Monkhouse invites more newswomen to compete for a special wedding gift (s) (89:78/27)
 6.50 **Father Dowling Investigates: The Stone Killer Mystery**. Tom Bosley stars as a priest with a vocation for detection. (Oracle) (s) (91:75/51)
 7.50 **The Ruth Rendell Mystery Movie: Means of Evil**. The last in a series of feature-length stories. All is not what it seems in Axel and Harriet. Kingman's marriage (s) (Oracle) (57:46/55:54)
 9.45 **Michael Winner's True Crimes: Rachel McLean**. The film director introduces a programme about the murder of the Oxford student whose body was discovered under the floorboards of her lodgings. Starring Rupert Bates, Julie Bramall, Martin Fisk and Stephen Church. (Oracle) (59:37/72)



Making music: Cynthia Lauper and Tom Jones (10.15pm)

- 10.15 **Tom Jones: The Right Time**. More live music and conversation with the Welsh singer. He is joined by Sam Moore, Cyndi Lauper and Daryl Hall (s) (51:26/1)
 10.45 **Mail with Sue Carpenter**. Weather (20:44/0) 11.00 **LWT Weather** (11:11/17)
 11.05 **Wolf**: Jack Scalia stars in the detective drama series. Tony enlists the help of a Chinese gang member when an Italian shopkeeper is attacked (84:07/30)
 12.05am **Paul McCartney - Unplugged**. The first of two programmes featuring the former Beatle. Paul McCartney and his band present a visual version of their album *Unplugged* which includes a performance of McCartney's first song "I Lost My Little Girl", written when he was a schoolboy (28:48/26)
 1.00 **From Rio to Liverpool**. Documentary following Paul McCartney and his band on their record-breaking world tour (35:58/44)
 2.10 **The Big E**. Magazine programme for young Europeans (s) (31:01/31)
 3.10 **Bhangra Beat Special**. Highlights from last year's Agni Arts Festival in Nottingham featuring music and dance artists from Asia (36:41/19)
 4.30 **The Hit Man and Her**. The latest on the club scene presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strahan (s) (67:34)
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Tim Nelson (55:42/1). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Heathcliff** (s) (83:88/27) 6.25 **Eureka's Castle** (s) (70:42/49) 6.55 **Once Upon A Time...Life**. Digestion (s) (90:24/49) 7.25 **The People's Game**. The history of soccer (s) (73:38/59) 7.55 **Trans World Sport** (1:50/40) 9.00 **News** (89:88/51) 9.15 **Racing: The Morning Line** (25:12/54)
 10.00 **Slim On**. Magazine programme for the hearing impaired (88:59/4)
 10.30 **Film: Sons of the Sea** (1939) starring Simon Lack as the cadet son of the Commander of the Royal Naval College who is suspected of treason. Directed by Maurice Elvey (97:28/5)
 12.00 **Get Smart**. Spoof spy series (49:55/6)
 12.30 **The Beverly Hillsbillies**. Vintage comedy (75:46/9)
 1.00 **Film: Brandy for the Parson** (b/w, 1951). In the first of two films, starring Kenneth More, a smuggler enlists the help of unsuspecting holidaymakers. Easy-going comedy, directed by John Hodge (74:50/52)
 2.20 **Film: The Admirable Crichton** (1957). Kenneth More and Cecil Parker lead a polished, if straightforward, version of I.M. Barne's play about a butler who takes control when shipwrecked with his employer on a desert island. Directed by Lewis Gilbert (92:42/7)
 4.05 **Scapa Flow 1918**. A look at the self-inflicted disaster of the interned German fleet at Scapa Flow, Orkney, in 1919. Based on eye witness accounts and archive footage (s) (101:38/46)
 5.05 **Brookside Omnibus** (s) (Teletext) (s) (82:59/310)
 6.30 **Right to Reply**. Viewer Jenny Hutchinson investigates the apparent loudness of advertisements compared to the programmes they intersperse. (Teletext) (s) (46:9)
 7.00 **A Week in Politics**. Includes Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary and head of the home Civil Service, talking about the future of Whitehall (73:59)
 8.00 **Kingdom of the Plains**. John Pearson's film about the daily struggle for supremacy among the animals who live on the plains of the Serengeti and in the Ngongoro Crater in Tanzania. This was his last safari before he was killed in a shooting accident as he completed the film (Teletext) (s) (91:17)



Mad, bad and dangerous to know: Robert Lindsay (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **G.B.H.**
 ● CHOICE: Alan Bleasdale's huge ten-and-a-half hour series was the television drama of 1991 and deserves an early repeat, though its true status will probably only emerge with about ten years of hindsight. Much of the pre-publicity centred on the similarity between Bleasdale's ambitious political boss (brilliantly played by Robert Lindsay) and Derek Hutton and the early scenes did little to contradict this. But nothing was to be quite what it seemed. Even the battle between the hard-left Lindsay and Michael Palin's decent, neurotic liberal schoolmaster refused to run along predictable lines. And when Lindsay Duncan joined the cast as an enigmatic femme fatale this was clearly no straightforward political drama but a complex examination of character and motive which transcended its time and place. (Teletext) (s) (82:52/48)
 10.40 **Film: Jules et Jim** (1961, b/w)
 ● CHOICE: Channel 4's nine-week tribute to the French New Wave gets off to the best possible start with Francois Truffaut's lyrical story of love and caprice set either side of the first world war. Oskar Werner and Henri Serre play two friends in Paris whose lives are changed by the volatile and elusive Catherine (Jeanne Moreau). She names one of them, continues to have an affection for the other and behaves unpredictably until the end. Although ultimately tragic, this is a film of women and human joy (1961/59) 1.55 **The Big E** (64:10/63) 3.25-5.30 **Pop Profile** (75:59/7)
 12.35am **Twilight Zone**. A tale of the supernatural (25:59/76)
 1.30 **Film: The Unseen** (1945, b/w). Disappointing period thriller, co-scripted by Raymond Chandler and starring Gail Russell as a governess who becomes embroiled in a terrifying chain of events. Directed by Lewis Allen (22:77). Ends at 3.00

SATellite

SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Maripol satellites.
 6.00am **Danger Day** (45:48) 6.30 **Earthday** (45:48) 7.00 **Farm** (45:48) 7.30 **News** (45:48) 8.00 **World** (45:48) 8.30 **World** (45:48) 9.00 **World** (45:48) 9.30 **World** (45:48) 10.00 **World** (45:48) 10.30 **World** (45:48) 11.00 **World** (45:48) 11.30 **World** (45:48) 12.00 **World** (45:48) 12.30 **World** (45:48) 1.00 **World** (45:48) 1.30 **World** (45:48) 2.00 **World** (45:48) 2.30 **World** (45:48) 3.00 **World** (45:48) 3.30 **World** (45:48) 4.00 **World** (45:48) 4.30 **World** (45:48) 5.00 **World** (45:48) 5.30 **World** (45:48) 6.00 **World** (45:48) 6.30 **World** (45:48) 7.00 **World** (45:48) 7.30 **World** (45:48) 8.00 **World** (45:48) 8.30 **World** (45:48) 9.00 **World** (45:48) 9.30 **World** (45:48) 10.00 **World** (45:48) 10.30 **World** (45:48) 11.00 **World** (45:48) 11.30 **World** (45:48) 12.00 **World** (45:48) 12.30 **World** (45:48) 1.00 **World** (45:48) 1.30 **World** (45:48) 2.00 **World** (45:48) 2.30 **World** (45:48) 3.00 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By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Sir Colin Chandler

Song and dance man with a ruthless streak

Carol Leonard finds the chief executive of Vickers places great store in mutual trust but gets angry if he is let down



In trim: Sir Colin Chandler relaxes with Jenny, his wife, who was a hairdresser and still cuts her husband's hair

If you were to lean back in your chair, close your eyes and listen, Louis Armstrong could have been reincarnated before you. His unmistakable gravelly tones are singing: "Hello Dolly, well hello Dolly, it's so good to have you back where you belong."

If you were to cheat for a moment, and open your eyes, you would see him mopping the perspiration from his furrowed brow. The mannerisms would be perfect, but the skin is white. For the man behind the voice is, in fact, Sir Colin Chandler, the new chief executive of Vickers, the £420 million conglomerate that makes Rolls-Royce motor cars, Challenger tanks and incubators for neo-natal hospital units.

Chandler, 51, is staging this impromptu display of his ability as a mimic not at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, but in his office in Millbank Tower, overlooking the Thames in London. "I love to sing," he says.

"There was a time when our friends would throw their hands up in horror and say, 'For God's sake, don't let him sing Oklahoma again'." Chandler, known affectionately as "young Col" within the company, laughs. He laughs loudly and often. He says he enjoys bantering with colleagues, prefers extroverts and agrees that he can at times be garrulous "even discussing on occasion and yes, I do sometimes think to myself that I'm saying too much. A voice in my head tells me to shut up."

Chandler left school at 16. His first job was as a gardener, he began his formal career as a commercial apprentice with De Havilland Aircraft and went on to become marketing director of British Aerospace's aircraft group before being seconded by Michael Heslop to the Ministry of Defence. There he spent four-and-a-half years as head of the defence export sales organisation before joining Vickers two years ago. He took over as chief executive this month. "I'm at my happiest when I'm in control. I'm not a natural

There's a company in France that wants to shut us down — let's do it to them instead

ill. I became a better person, less conscious of myself." His conversation is frequently interrupted by a joke or funny story, mostly told against himself. As for his family, he married Jenny, then a hairdresser — "yes of course she cuts my hair" — when he was 25 and she 22. "We have a similar sense of humour, we are good mates, but she is not as outgoing as me." Their children are Jamie, 27, who works for British Aerospace, and Pippa, 23, and home is a 200-year-old property in four acres with a garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

Chandler is aware of his good fortune. "Yes, occasionally I do stop and think whatever happened to Chandler. Here I am with a knighthood, chief executive of this great company. I've come from Whitehall, mixing with prime ministers, and I think it's a long way isn't it." An aunt he had lost touch with wrote to him recently, after reading about his successes in a newspaper. "I wrote back and said it's a far cry from the flats in Bermondsey."

Bermondsey, in London's docklands, was where Chandler was born into a lower middle-class Catholic family. He was the eldest of five children and the son of a tool maker. The flat in south-east London became a semi-detached in Reigate as his father built up a small engineering business. His early memories are of deprivation, just after the war. Things like a new pair of pinstripes were absolutely marvellous. If you got a new pair you ran round the streets leaping all over the place and you wore them for days on end. Today you've got six pairs of trainers.

He was high-spirited and mischievous even as a child. When he was six, he painted the family dog blue. "My aunts will say 'God, how did he ever survive, he was just about the naughtiest kid you would ever see'."

At heart, he has not changed. He still has a boyish grin, and in so far as age is an attitude, he is one of those men who will always be younger than his years. He thinks of himself as being much younger than he is.

It would, however, be wrong to assume that Chandler was all frivolity and fun. There is a tough, uncompromising side. It is just that unlike most successful businessmen, who display a crusty, protective exterior, his crudeness, or rather his iron will power, is kept well disguised. "Underneath I do have this feeling of striving to achieve and of being very, very

angry if I don't or if I'm let down by people." Chandler places great store in mutual trust. He is a team player who "tended to emerge" even at school, as captain. He believes in leading by example but does not bestow that trust indiscriminately. "I am slightly slow, a bit cautious at first, about developing relationships, and then I come on strong."

In keeping with that open and energetic personality, Chandler is impatient and talkative. He finds it impossible to watch television if someone else is in the room. "I feel I have to keep talking to them. But although he is now an active supporter of the Conservative party (in his twenties he was a member of the Labour party) he is not at all political in office terms. "Vickers is not a political company," he says. He is also occasionally a worrier.

usually about personnel problems, and admits to having four or five sleepless nights a year.

Chandler, expected to be at Vickers' helm for eight years — the official retirement age is 60 — says that unlike Plastow, who sold 30 companies and bought 12 during his tenure, he plans no such changes. "We've now got a structure that fits, what I need to do is to drive forward all that we've got."

Among the businesses within that structure he would, he says, like to expand healthcare — its £120 million turnover represents about a fifth of group turnover — enlarge aerospace, putting Vickers back on the map in the world of aviation, and increase the value of the defence orders Vickers receives by increasing market share. He knows that the latter, in particular, will be no mean feat.

Chandler says: "No, defence is not becoming less important to Vickers. It could become bigger in the short term, over the next three or four years. Defence expenditure may be shrinking but there's still a lot of money spent on defence, we are good at what we do, and someone is going to get that business, so why shouldn't it be us?"

He might mumble as he speaks, or deliver a serious statement as if it were a shaggy dog story, but Chandler's aggression and will to win should not be underestimated. When he took up his post at the defence ministry, the French had received a letter of intent from Saudi Arabia to buy Mirage jets. Within a year Chandler had persuaded the Saudis to buy Tornados instead. That was, he says, "a great moment."

Chandler, barely wiping the omnipresent smile from his face, admits that he would have no qualms about being ruthless. The differences between him and Plastow have all but disappeared. It is just the packaging that is so different.

He would, he says, be "ruthless" in dealing with an incompetent colleague. He has already reduced staff levels from 12,500 to 10,500. "I don't shy away from those decisions, you have to think what is the right thing to do for the majority. Nor would he restrain himself if it came to "taking out" a rival firm.

"I wouldn't even think about it, I would have no sympathy at all. I tell colleagues not to forget that there's a company in France that wants to shut us down so let's do it to them instead. It's stark but that's the way it is."

Power offers to nx company

has offered to buy the Manx Electric d lay a 20-mile cable under the sea le of Man. The island's chief minis n of the Tynwald, the Manx parliam gin detailed talks with Scottish Powe proposal was made after consular egawards of the island's 35 megawatts should be replaced. A takeover ely to produce the cheapest power for the Tynwald's consultants. The M&A £3.1 million last year

hit Tinsley

passing its dividend after a pre-tax loss y profit in the year to end-March. As tting group Tinsley, which mainly were saw turnover fall to £23.5 million (£24.9p earnings). There is no final divid e the interim was passed, there is no n unchanged at 8p

offer price

ry next week on the initial public offer on, the North American oil refining acquired by Lasso when it took o il company, last year. Lasso expects 355 billion and £145.5 billion w d they believed flotation of the busin in oil refinery and service station i refineries and marketing outlets i s going well.

inges into loss

shake-up left Lynx Holdings, a compa company, nursing a loss of £160,000 a March 31 (£105,000 profit). Lyn 130,000 in compensation after lawi tuary. Other factors in the loss incl r outdoor and venture play equipme urance by Lynx's Data Memoe an interim dividend of 0.25p (0.5p

er holds payout

t, the property investor and trader, a dividend at 1.2p a share, despite a 42 re-tax profits in the six months to e 0. Turnover fell to £17 million (£21 gross retail income rose from £280 n Earnings drop to 2.5p a share (4.1p anticipate a better than break-even m The shares eased 1p to 103p.

ets sugar firms

mission is alleging restrictive price ers and merchants in the British mte impose fines on companies that ille r carved up the market. Greenm, d group privatised last year, and bte favoured British Foods last year, nced stions from the EC director gene i. Lyle said it had not received a notie.

ll interims fall

many but first-half profits at Calvel S&N quoted textile company that impo Germany. Pre-tax profits plunged i months to end-April from £153,000, n million (£2.65 million). Earnings slie i from 1.40p a share. There is no inte vidual, chairman, hopes to be a "a ble" result for the year as a whole.

goes buying

to-Midlands motor dealer and vehi aving, Clarke Brothers (Bristol), a F r up to £874,000 in new shares and a r up to £215,000 in the year to e. The power of £13.3 million John Cam, rector and company secretary, epe this after a refinancing from Jesups, 74p

for panic

expected to have a possi impact on next year's omi. Year-end gearing of probably rise to about 25 p cent, against 15 per cent at time round. Claremont will pends on M&S for about 95 per cent of its business, wh J&J obtains nearer 95 p cent of its trade from M&S. Both supply ladies' chlo from blouses and shir e dresses and quic.

Japanese banks polish tarnished image with fruity new names

Just as plain old Harry Webb found fame and fortune as Cliff Richard after changing his name, so Japanese banks are attempting to lure new customers and profits by changing their names.

After the roaring success of Sanyo Sogo Bank's decision to transform itself into the Tomato Bank "to impress the world", as its president put it, "with the fresh and bright appeal of the tomato", other bank presidents have dreamt up fruity new names for their banks. The move is part of what they describe, using borrowed English, as an "image-up" campaign, intended to dispel the distrust that has plagued the industry since financial scandals erupted a year ago.

Kyowa Saitama Bank, Japan's eighth largest bank in terms of fund volumes, is due to change its name to The Asahi Bank in September. Yuichi Miura, of the bank's public relations department, said: "We want to portray ourselves more accurately as the caring institution that we are. In the new post-deregulation era of retail banking, the individual customers will become increasingly important and we must attract them with a friendly name."

The Asahi Bank will spend Y3 billion yen (£13 million) on changing the name outside its 452 branches and on all of its paperwork. The bank will also adopt the symbol of the rising sun, the meaning of the word "asahi". The new logo was designed to "appeal to the world as a warm and friendly image", Mr Miura said. He has perhaps overlooked the fact that many of Japan's Asian neighbours have an enduring memory of the rising sun on Japanese battleships and bayonets during the 1930s when the Japanese military swept across Asia claiming territories to add to its Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

"But we will be more familiar to our customers, giving the impression of a young and blooming bank," he said, adding that Asahi will be quicker and easier to write on a bank deposit form than the more arduous calligraphic feat required for Kyowa Saitama.

With pre-tax profits down 27 per cent in fiscal 1991 and the value of bank shares down nearly 40 per cent since the beginning of this year, the name changes betray the back-to-policies tactic of many Japanese banks as they attempt to bolster retail operations and come under increasing

Bundesbank's tribesmen rebuffed

By Wolfgang Munchall, European Business Correspondent

GERMANY'S Bundesbank has won a battle against the notorious "backwoodsmen", the external representatives on its central council and arguably the world's most unconcerned monetary hardliners. Their number is to be cut from 11 to nine as a result of a decision by the Bundestag (the lower house of the German parliament). The decision overrules a previous vote by the upper house that would have increased their number to 16.

Had the upper house prevailed, power over German, and in effect European, monetary policy would have shifted away from Frankfurt, the Bundesbank's headquarters, to local tribesmen in far-flung provinces.

The Bundestag's vote shifts power back towards the Bundesbank's seven-member directorate, led by Helmut Schlesinger and Hans Tietmeyer power shift

external representatives. The most notorious incident arising from this rift occurred last December, when the backwoodsmen forced through a 0.5 per cent rise in the Lombard rate (the leading interest rate) to 9.75 per cent, against the wishes of some of the permanent members, who had proposed an increase of only 0.25 per cent.

Under new legislation, the external members will retain a majority on the council, but only by a small margin, of nine against seven. The reform of the council's central structure became necessary after German unification, when the number of Länder increased from 11 to 16. The Länder argued that each of them should be represented in the central council. Parliament's decision to cut the number of external members from 11 to nine implies that several Länder

will need to share a representative. The Bundesbank gracefully refrained from commenting on its victory in this two-year battle between the two houses of parliament. The decision by the lower house also amounts to a belated victory for Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, who bravely fought against dilution of the bank's central powers against stiff opposition. He argued that such a move would make it more difficult for the Bundesbank to reach decisions, with all the consequences this would have for monetary policy.

However, there is no indication yet when the changes will become official. The small federal state of Bremen, one of the losers in the reshuffle, has threatened to take the issue to the constitutional court, which could delay implementation of the new law.

The clumsily named Mitsui Taiyō Kobe Bank, which was born out of a merger between Mitsui Bank and Taiyō Kobe Bank in April 1990, changed its name this year to The Sakura Bank, meaning "the cherry blossom bank". Tadahiko Teramoto, of Sakura Bank's Tokyo headquarters, said: "Cherry trees are well-known around the world and the image of the cherry blossom is well-known and respected, so we thought it would be an appropriate name for us."

Paul Heaton, financial analyst at Smith New Court, in Tokyo, said: "Both banks spent £13 million, at a conservative estimate, on changing their names. In Sakura Bank's case that was 3 per cent of their net income, in Kyowa Saitama's case it will be more."

Mr Heaton has been busy keeping his files up to date with the new names, the most recent being the rebirth of Daishinpan, a consumer credit association, simply as A-Plus. He predicts it will not be long before business opens at a Cat Bank. But the prize for the most cheerful new name should perhaps go to Yamagata Shiwase Ginkō, "The Yamagata Happy-Go-Lucky Bank."

Waking to the insistent sound of a distant tap, tap, tapping

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

"KNOCK, knock, knock." Snore, snuffle, what? Damn, who can that be at this time of day? Well whoever it is I'm going to get rid of them. Stomp, stomp, stomp, loud rattle. "Naff off. This column doesn't start for another hour." Stomp, stomp, stomp, swish, loud yawn... zzz.

"Knock, knock, persistent, insistent knock." I don't believe this. Will these idiots not be told. There is a columnist up here trying to sleep. Well I warned them. Stomp, stomp, stomp, crash. "If you don't go away, I'm going to call the editor."

Mumble, mumble, authoritative mumble. "What's that... You are the editor... and you'd like the column written straight away." Silent scream; world swallow me up; beam me up Scottie. "I'll be down with it immediately sir," just as soon as I can get this foot out of my mouth. The curse of Pandora's vox strikes again.

Somewhere secret and far away a GCHQ official chuckled as he listened in to my discomfort being captured forever on magnetic tape. But before he could even think of noting the event in the log, his attention was grabbed by the red light flashing on the dedicated IFD line. He reacted almost instantly, but then the IFD procedure had become almost second nature.

He buzzed a colleague on standby in an adjoining room. "Robin, you'd better come in. I think we've got another Impending Financial Disaster on our hands." In seconds, his associate had joined him, pausing only to mutter his by now traditional protest. "I wish you'd stop calling me Robin. He left years ago."

The first man, as by now had also become traditional, ignored the remark, as with practised proficiency he manipulated the bank of tuners and faders in front of him. Suddenly the hiss of static was interrupted by a refined Scottish brogue. "Hugo, I beg you to reconsider. I know

losses of over £400 million look bad, but I assure you it could have been much worse. After all we could have revalued the properties..." An even more refined English voice broke in. "I'm sorry Ken, but I've made up my mind. I'm Pandora-ing out of here." The GCHQ man sighed and moved the tuner on. Really the Brent Walker boardroom was nothing like as much fun as it used to be.

Seconds later both men froze as a blood-curdling scream echoed round the room. It finished as abruptly as it began, only to be replaced but what sounded like a deep contented growl, followed by the unmistakable crack of splintering bone.

"What on earth was that," said the white-faced, reluctant Robin. His colleague consulted the official index of listening device frequencies, known in-house as the bug book. "It says here the device is planted

in the offices of Sir John Chapple at London Zoo." Even as he spoke the noise changed again — a loud gulp, then an even louder yet curiously feline burp, then silence. The first man drew a thick black line through the bug book entry. "One for the dead file, I think Robin."

With the red light still flashing, the search of the IFD frequencies resumed. The hiss of static gave way to the sound of a heated argument. "If you think I'm going to let 5,000 Johnny-come-latties who wouldn't know an LMX spiral from a BMX bike stand in the market's way, you've got another think coming. Now Pandora off and tell that miserable shower they owe us another two billion quid." A squealed "but David" was cut off as the search moved on again. GCHQ had never really understood Lloyd's.

Two all too familiar voices

filled the room next. "I'm sorry John, but there is a very simple reason why we've got to abolish the National Economic Development Committee."

"And what's that Norman?" "Had to be blunt John, the Treasury model shows there is not going to be any national economic development."

"Tell us something new, the unseen listeners groaned, moving their dials rapidly on. The loudspeakers crackled into life again. "Dublin, I think we have a problem, a polite voice said with a slight Japanese accent. "Bingo," said the GCHQ duo.

"What do you mean," said an angry Irish voice. "I don't care what you do. Cut the price, cut the numbers of shares, but get my baby into the air."

"Have you tried cutting interest rates," said a new and rather non-executive sounding English voice. "I've found that can have the most startling effect."

"We're very sorry Mr Ryan, Mr Lawson. We've tried everything but the markets are convinced that what has gone up, must come down. You're grounded."

"Damn," said the Irish voice loudly. "Oh no, not again," said the English voice quietly.

Back at GCHQ, the two listeners moved into IFD priority one procedure. "Pass me the hotline Robin." The normal protests silenced, he passed the special red telephone to his colleague, who lifted the receiver and mentally rehearsed the secret pass-words as he listened to the ringing tone. Click.

"Deadling desk!" They were through. "Sell Wellcome and sell it big..." That's right, normal procedures... Book it to our Liechtenstein account."

The two men sat back with smiles on their faces. Another couple of IFDs and they could retire. As long as no one told the prime minister.

BY OUR CITY STAFF

Business Focus – The Sunday Times tomorrow

STOCK MARKET



Morland, the regional brewer, held steady at 465p after its rival, Greene King, decided to extend the deadline for its hostile £101 million bid by two weeks to July 2. Greene King says that it has now received acceptances totalling 46.2 per cent. in-

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES	
BXL: N/P (285)	40 +
Blue Circle 50p N/P (200)	16 -
EMAP N/P (230)	38 +
Eadie 5p N/P (14)	14 -
Emex Furniture Sp N/P (43)	18 -
Fulcrum Inv Trus Inc N/P (57)	4 -
Marshall's N/P (75)	11 -
Protec Ind 2p N/P (280)	06 -

B&C N/P (285)	40 +
Blue Circle 50p N/P (200)	16 -
EMAP N/P (230)	38 +
Eadie 5p N/P (14)	14 ..
Essex Furniture 5p N/P (43)	18 ..
Fukuen Inv Trust Inc N/P (57)	4 ..
Marshall's N/P (75)	14 ..
Probus Ind 2p N/P (280)	48 -

[illegible]

Dishonour among insurers

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR



Large insurance companies are doing their best to scupper any move to fee-based advice. Nobody can deny that it is in the interest of the investor. The Office of Fair Trading, Securities and Investments Board and consumer groups all want to foster this method of paying for investment advice.

Even investors are beginning to realise that they will be better off paying a fee for professional services instead of kitting themselves by getting something for nothing. By paying a fee to a broker instead of their services being rewarded by commission, not revealed to the investor, the final payout on a policy can be greatly enhanced.

Yet 11 out of 28 insurance companies asked to waive commission on endowment mortgages said they could not do so. The request came from a London broker, experiencing increased demand from clients to pay fees instead of commission.

When he approached some insurance companies they did not

want to waive the commission. They were happy for brokers to be paid and then to rebate to the clients their own money. In many cases, the investors would get more back than they paid in fees. This, however, is a false economy as every pound rebated to a customer as commission is denting the final payout of a policy.

A typical young endowment customer taking out a £60,000 loan over 25 years would pay the broker £500 for the work involved and then get £600 of his premium's back as the rebated commission. This may seem like a good deal until it is understood that 80 per cent or more of the first year's premiums are paid in commission. Without the commission, a great deal more is invested towards the final payout.

Ian McKenna, the broker, asked 28 companies if they would allow brokers to forego commis-

sion and therefore ensure that more of the initial investment went to work for their clients.

The 11 who refused were not tiny firms with ancient computer systems. They included household names. The dishonourable list includes Royal Life, Commercial Union, Abbey Life, Allied Dunbar, Scottish Equitable and Scottish Amicable. Others, like Guardian Royal Exchange, would not offer the facility for its with-profits mortgages.

Some said there was no demand for the service. Others offered the facility on low commis-

sion products but not endowment policies, or they limited the choice to only part of their endowment range.

Of the companies asked, only three were totally flexible and would waive however much the broker and client wanted from the initial commission and the annual renewal commission in subsequent years. Eagle Star, Standard Life and Scottish Widows, take a bow.

They recognise that investors should have the right to choose. They are not afraid that by stripping out commission from

the company's costs investors will be able to see how much is spent by the life company in setting up and operating a policy.

Investors ought to remember that when *Money Management* looked at the question of waiving commission on pension plans it found that someone paying £5,000 a year could, over 25 years, have their payout reduced by up to £95,000 if the broker was paid by commission instead of an £500 fee.

Cash value

Cash used to count for something. It could be used to pay bills, earn interest or buy things. It was almost as useful as credit cards — but not any more.

Pay it into a current account with Abbey National through one

of its cash dispensers and the money is treated with suspicion as an uncleaned deposit for three working days.

The bank can use the money but the customer cannot. One *Weekend Money* reader's attempt to remedy an overdraft by paying £300 through a dispenser at an Abbey branch was delayed by this policy. Abbey helpfully says that customers wanting access to cash should pay it in over the counter.

No doubt other banks operate a similar fiddle. Some have other devices for confiscating interest and refusing to make debits. Money transferred from a customer's savings account to a cheque account held by the same person at another branch of some banks loses interest for several days. The perfectly "safe" money can even be ignored when companies try to collect direct debit payments or standing orders fall due. This cannot be in the interests of customers. Unfortunately, the banking code does not outlaw such practices.

Good causes with heavy demands and falling income aim to fight back

Charities plan TV 'give' campaign

Lindsay Cook looks at various tax-efficient ways in which the public can chip in painlessly

INDIVIDUAL donations to charity have fallen in real terms over the past five years, despite the introduction of tax-effective ways of giving.

A group of leading charities is planning its first television campaign to promote the idea of giving and to make sure that charities get the most from each donation by using the tax system.

The charities have been in lengthy negotiations with the government about help with the funding of the advertisements. On June 29, they have a meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to discuss the project.

Soon after payroll giving was launched in 1987, the government said it would match the amount that charities put up to pay for a campaign. So far, the charities have raised £500,000 and the promise of another £1.5 million if the government finds £2 million.

Michael Brophy, director of the Charities Aid Foundation, is concerned that demands on charities are increasing while the amount given is falling. "There is even more reason to promote donations now to get the trend going up again. I would like to see vigorous growth of income."

Payroll giving allows employees to make regular small payments to charity from their wages before income tax is deducted. Despite its simplicity for employees, it has contributed only £28 million in total to charities so far. This compares with £3.5 billion to £4.3 billion given to charities by individuals in the year ending August 1991.

Individual donations can also be small. When the

Charities Aid Foundation took over the administration of payroll giving for one charity this year, it found that some of the regular payments being made were 1p a month. Typically, the donations work out at £14 a year. CAF has a minimum of £2.50. The maximum that can be given is £600 a year.

Charities find that when a scheme is operating, up to 25 per cent of staff agree to make donations. Unfortunately, the recession has made many companies reluctant to take on the additional administrative burden. Currently, 2,652 employers allow staff to give as they earn, and 165,500 employees have agreed to have money deducted from their salaries.

Because no tax is deducted, basic rate taxpayers can give £100 to charity and lose only £75 from their pay. Higher-rate taxpayers can afford to be more generous because it costs them only £60 to give £100. Gift Aid, introduced in October 1990, allows individuals to make one-off donations of £400 to £5 million and for the charities to claim back the income tax that has been paid on the money. But the scheme has made an even smaller contribution than payroll giving, according to the CAF.

Covenants, which allow charities to claim back income tax already paid on regular donations, are used by 8 per cent of the adult population, according to the Individual Giving and Volunteering Survey, published this week.

Payroll giving was used by 2 per cent. Covenants were typically for £72 a year. Char-

ities do much better out of wills. Legacies to charities are made by about 3 per cent of the adult population, according to the survey. They account for £500 million a year.

To benefit charities in this way, people have first to make a will. The charitable giving survey showed that 72 per cent had not made wills. Of those that had, 13 per cent had included a donation to charity. Of the 34 who had made charitable bequests, 32 said the amount was small but two said that it was substantial.

Of those questioned, 17 per cent said they had never thought of leaving money to charity in their wills. Bequests to registered charities are not subject to inheritance tax. This tax is charged at 40 per cent. The first £150,000 of an estate is exempted, as are gifts between spouses.

Of the estates attracting inheritance tax, one in five includes a charitable bequest. In 1986-7, 8,137 bequests were made to charity, and these averaged £40,000.



Jumbo effort: Sponsored events, such as this World Wide Fund for Nature "Pedal for the Planet" appeal this month, are said to attract donations from 26 per cent of adults. That event raised £150,000

Medical and health charities receive most, followed by general welfare. In this category, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution receives 26 per cent of legacies. Animal protection charities receive £60 million a year, according to *Charity Trends 1991*. Most of the leading charities have leaflets explaining how to make wills.

The majority of donations to charity are small amounts given by people when they are prompted to do so. Raffle tickets are the most popular way of giving, with 34 per cent of people having made donations in this way in the previous month. Door-to-door collections jog 30 per cent of adults into giving, and street collections prompt 26 per cent to give, as do sponsored events, according to the survey. Because so many donations are made in this way, the total donation each month to charity is £2 per person.

Larger individual donations have been hit by the recession, Mr Brophy said.

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Plastic benefactors raise millions

CHARITIES benefit every time thousands use their credit cards. The Leeds Permanent Building Society announced this week that it has handed over £3 million to three charities in the three and a half years since it launched its Visa credit card.

This is based on £5 for each of the 230,000 cards issued, and 20p for every £100 spent by cardholders. Since the society introduced an annual charge last year, the one-off £5 for a new customer has been replaced with the option to pay £5 of the £12 charge each year to the British Heart Foundation, Imperial Cancer Research Fund or Mencap.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, said: "The concept of a card linked to charities has worked for us because we had faith in it. It's been proved many times that people are happy to support charities if it is made easy for them."

The Credit Card Research Group estimates that £7 million has been raised by the credit card industry since Bank of Scotland launched its National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children card in 1987. The bank will not disclose how much has been raised by the Visa card. It pays £5 for every



Faith in system: Mike Blackburn, of the Leeds

new card and 25p for every £100 spent by cardholders. Barclaycard, the largest card provider, with 8.6 million cards, does not offer any charity cards. "We looked at the issue of affinity cards and decided not to go forward," a spokeswoman said.

Barclaycard customers can donate the profile points they earn when they spend £10 or more to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. These are converted into cash by Barclays, and over three years £175,000

has gone to the charity. TSB has 80,000 holders of its Save the Children Fund Visa card, which was launched in April 1988. This pays £5 when the card is issued and then 25p per £100 spent. It has raised £317,000 for charity.

Midland Bank has 25,000 holders of its Artscard, which benefits 86 arts organisations, and 15,000 Carecard holders. The latter funds 18 charities.

The bank's National Trust affinity card, launched in

April 1990, has 60,000 holders and they have already spent enough to earn the charity £617,000. National Trust receives £5 for each new card and 5p per credit card transaction. The credit card donations were first used to help restore part of the Welsh coastline.

Midland makes no annual charge for its affinity cards, but the interest rate is 2 per cent a month compared with 1.9 per cent on the others.

National Westminster has paid £3 million to the World Wide Fund for Nature over the past three years. About 20 per cent of this came from its affinity card.

Co-operative Bank customers can fund Help the Aged or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Both charities receive £10 when the card is issued and 25p per £100 spent. Girobank has an Oxfam card, which pays £5 at the outset and then 25p per £100 spent.

The Royal Bank of Scotland pays £7.50 to the RNLI, the National Canine Defence League or Woodland Trust when their affinity cards are taken out, or £5 to RAF charities when their Mastercard is issued. All receive 25p per £100 spent.

LINDSAY COOK

Vouchers put tax in collection tins

MOST donations to charity are made when the giver is prompted by someone collecting money or asking to be sponsored. This means that they do not benefit from the various tax-efficient methods of giving to charity (Lindsay Cook writes).

While some people are committed to a particular charity, most want the flexibility to respond to appeals or buy raffle tickets. The Charities Aid Foundation's charity account allows individuals to make donations to charities on an ad hoc basis, and for the charities to be able to receive the basic rate income tax already paid on the donation.

The donor does this by either taking out a covenant with the CAF or making a single donation under the gift aid scheme. With a covenant, they commit themselves to paying a minimum of £10 a month or £100 a year for four years. However, if their circumstances change, the covenant can be cancelled.

CAF recovers the tax, adds it to the account and issues a book of vouchers that can be used like cheques to make donations to any recognised charitable cause, including

churches and scout groups. The vouchers can be printed with the name of the giver or left blank so that the money can be given anonymously.

When a charity receives a voucher for sponsorship or in a collecting tin it sends it to CAF, which immediately credits the bank account of the charity with the amount donated.

If the donor does not hand over the full amount to charities in any year, the remainder is carried forward and can be used in future years.

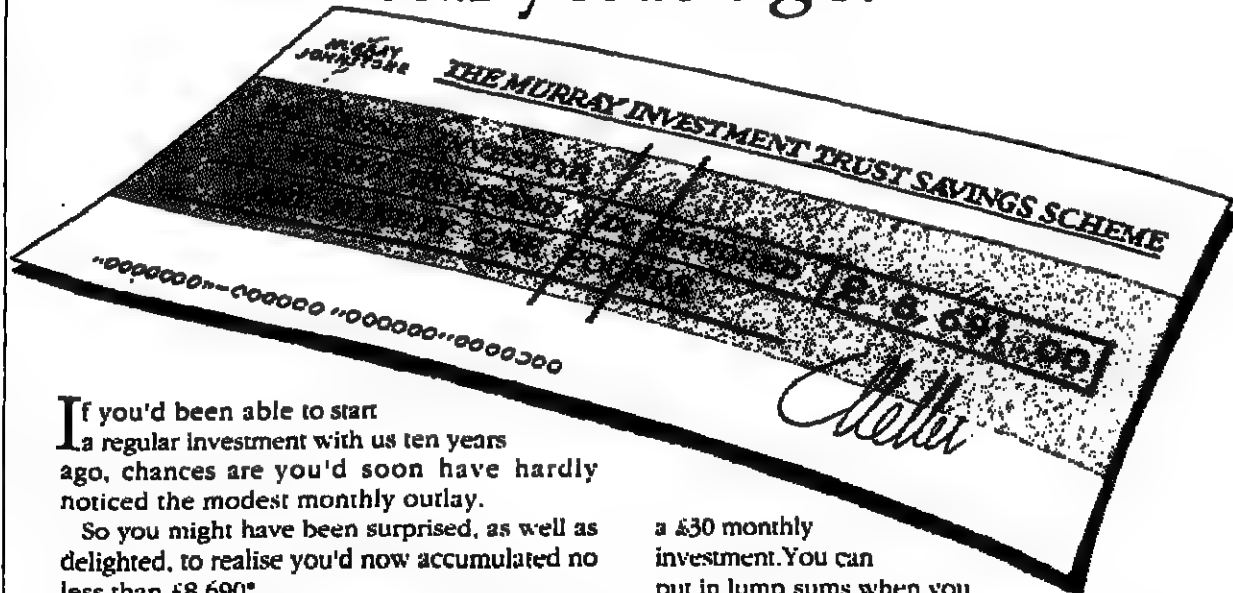
CAF makes a 3 per cent deduction from the gross amount to cover administration costs.

The organisation also offers a legacy account for people who want to leave money to charity. They can then make a will giving to CAF either a fixed sum, a percentage of the estate or the residue after other bequests have been met. This leaves them free to choose the charities later without having to alter the terms of their last will and testament.

Application forms for either account are available from CAF, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD.

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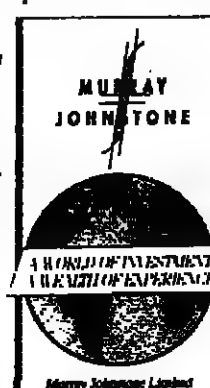
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Redundancies and red tape add to tangled backlog of case valuations

Growing delays in pension transfers cause concern

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

THE problem of lengthy delays in pension transfers, already a big source of complaint, may become worse. Pensions experts give warning that increasing redundancies will add to a tangled backlog of pension transfers, as former employees consider switching their money into the schemes of other employers or personal pensions.

One woman, made redundant by Northcliffe Newspapers in 1989, has waited two-and-a-half years for her company pension to be transferred to a personal plan she started in 1990.

She learnt the transfer value of her pension only a few months ago, but in the meantime received a written apology that blamed the delay on the large number of redundancies.

Since transfer values depend on the current investment market, her pension's

transfer value would have fallen if interest rates had increased during the delay. With interest rates lower than two years ago, transfer values have risen.

A spokeswoman in the company's pension department said: "The transfer value is now having to be recalculated because things have taken so long."

She explained that a 1989 valuation of the pension scheme, which involved making certain benefits retrospective, had added to the workload. A mix-up over a missing form caused extra delay.

Delays are a main source of complaint referred to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service and the Pensions Ombudsman. Much of the blame is laid on staff cutbacks and a long-winded transfer system involving too many intermediaries. OPAS believes simplifying the transfer

system would help speed things up.

Don Hall, OPAS chief executive, said: "These delays are not deliberate attempts to do people down. Most of the time they are due to inadequate administration resources. Many of the larger pension schemes, particularly with local authorities, have insufficient administrative machinery to deal with the huge backlogs of people wanting transfers."

"The system is often complicated by a huge chain of people each needing information before a transfer can be completed. At present, every actuary has his own way of calculating transfers. The system needs to be improved by making it standardised."

Another cause for delay may be a reluctance to transfer the pension if the trustees feel it is not in the interests of the member. "The member

may be sacrificing a good index-linked pension for an inferior one. Psychologically, because the trustees are not allowed to advise members, they drag their heels."

Occasionally, transfers might be held up if a pension fund is in deficit. "Some members have difficulty when trustees are deliberately evasive or refuse to reply to their questions about a transfer," Mr Hall said. "There is no legislation to say how long trustees should take to produce a transfer value, only that they must pay interest if it is not paid six months after acceptance of the figure they quote."

Since the European Court of Justice ruling in May 1990 that pensions are deferred pay, and that pension ages for men and women should be equalised, some employers have been waiting to hear if equalisation is retro-



pective, and whether they need to recalculate transfer values for people who left their pension rights behind when they left.

Another reason for delays occurs when pension affairs, only one of the duties assigned to an overworked company secretary, are considered to have low priority compared to other business.

Paul Thompson, of Berry Birch and Noble, said: "The

source of delay is often tracked back to forms not being completed. But it should take no more than an hour to calculate a transfer value, and that could even be given over the phone. When there is a long delay, the immediate worry is that there may be something wrong with the pension fund. Most companies would want to avoid that idea being spread among their employees."

Second instalment deadline close for BT investors

BY SARA MCCONNELL

ABOUT 1.8 million investors who bought shares in last year's BT sell-off have until July 7 to pay the second instalment on their partly-paid shares. Payment notices and interim certificates have been sent out this week.

The second instalment is 120p per share, except for those qualifying for the instalment discount, who will pay 105p per share for the first 1,000 shares. If investors hold on to their shares and pay both the second and third instalments, they will receive a discount worth £30 for every 100 shares allocated. 15p per share on each instalment.

Shareholders entitled to the discount will receive a payment notice with the 15p discount already deducted. A separate notice will be sent to those who also have shares not attracting the discount.

Cheques for the second instalment should arrive at the registrar's office no later than July 2, to meet the deadline for receipt of cleared funds by 3 pm on July 7.

Anyone who does not pay the instalment on time will lose their right to their shares, along with any incentives such as instalment discounts or bonus shares. They could be entitled to a refund but this will be a maximum of 110p per share. It could be less if the price obtained for the shares, minus the selling and administrative costs incurred, resulted in a loss to

the Treasury. Lloyds Bank, BT's registrar, has set up a help line on (0903) 503733, which will be open during working hours. Investors who have not received their payment notice by June 23 or who have lost it should telephone the help line, as should those unsure of how to deal with it. Those who have moved house should check at their former address.

Some institutions are offering special deals for people wanting to sell their shares before the second instalment is due. Norwich and Peterborough, one of the government's designated share shops for the BT sale, is cutting its minimum commission to £15 for partly-paid BT shares until June 24. Up to three family members with the same surname will be charged £2 each if the minimum commission applies.

Dunbar, Boyle & Kingsley, the London stockbroker, is also offering to sell shares until June 23 for a minimum of £15 or 1.5 per cent, whichever is the greater. Families and friends can batch up to ten lots of shares together.

The Leeds Permanent does not have a special deal to cater for people selling partly-paid BT shares, but charges a minimum of £9.95 to sell up to £2,000 worth of shares in any of the 35 privatised companies through its postal dealing service.

Co-op Bank renews 'free' card pledge

THE Co-operative Bank is to continue its pledge of a "free for life" gold Visa card indefinitely. But it will raise the minimum annual qualifying salary level for card applicants to £30,000 from October 1 (Sara McConnell writes).

The bank launched its gold card last September, promising that those who applied before the end of this month would never have to pay an annual fee.

Fees for other gold cards range from £25 for Royal Bank of Scotland's Gold Mastercard for gold cheque account customers, up to £95 for National Westminster's Gold Mastercard. Applicants for the Co-op gold card previously have had to be home owners, aged more than 25, with a minimum salary of £20,000.

Terry Thomas, the bank's managing director, said the £10,000 increase in minimum salary could reduce the number of new applications by up to 50 per cent, but setting a higher salary qualification would bring in those prepared to spend on their cards. Co-op gold card holders spend about £300 a month on their cards at the moment.

Roger Gorvin, the Co-op's executive director responsible for credit card policy, rejected any suggestion that the in-

creased salary qualification was an attempt to stamp out fraudulent applications. "Our fraud experience has been less than average and we are not suffering any problems," he said.

Mr Thomas said that 21 per cent of applicants had so far been turned down, less than half the 50 per cent expected by the bank. More than 90 per cent of gold card customers are new to the bank.

There was some ill-feeling among those rejected and the Co-op had instituted a right of appeal. Between 35 and 40 per cent of potential customers appealing were accepted.

There are no plans to increase the present 15-day free credit period, despite some complaints that it is shorter than the 25 days offered by other leading cards. Mr Thomas said: "The Co-op has to carry the can during these days of grace, which adds significantly to our costs."

Increasing the free credit period would make it more difficult to avoid imposing an annual fee, he said. Those customers who do not pay off the whole balance on their card but who make the minimum repayment by direct debit will be charged 1.75 per cent interest a month (an annual percentage rate of 23.1 per cent).



Thomas: rejections

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Carrying a happy burden in a changing world

In the third part of her series examining family finance through life, Liz Dolan looks at the onset of middle age

CHARLES and Melanie Munro brought their two daughters, Kara and Kate, from America to live in London two years ago. They have noticed an enormous difference in the cost of living since they first lived in the UK in the early 1970s, partly because of the dollar exchange rate, but also because of a general rise in prices, especially for property. Mrs Munro said: "Our cost of living has doubled in every way, even though our house is over here is slightly smaller."

home, she attended a normal school, a state school, but, because you start education earlier over here, she would have been much too behind if she had gone to an English school," Mrs Munro said. Kara, 20, lives part of the year in London, and spends the rest of the time at a private university in Los Angeles, which costs £13,000 a year, financed by a bequest from Mr Munro's grandmother. Mrs Munro said: "I am very keen on higher education for both daughters."



Family scales: Americans Kara, Kate and Melanie Munro cope with the cost of living in London

Ballet School students. This has all been very expensive, but "it is a very happy burden", Mrs Munro said. "Americans are very keen on all that sort of stuff, possibly because their school work is not as demanding as it is over here."

Nowadays, women must be prepared to support themselves throughout their lives, because of the need for two incomes, and because of the high rate of divorce.

Both daughters have also been encouraged to undertake as many extra-mural activities as possible. These have included private cello, piano and singing lessons. Kara is also a serious ballet student. She has five ballet lessons a week with Royal

Twenty years ago, it was the other way round completely. Now, it would have been absolutely impossible to have come over if Charles's company was not helping out.

The mortgage on their American home is £600 a month. Their London house costs £700 a week to rent. The biggest drain on the family income is school fees. Kara, 12, attends the American School in London, where the fees are £5,000 a year. "Back

INVESTMENTS

CAREFREE singles in the higher tax bracket are likely to consider higher-risk, tax-efficient ventures such as Peps because of the likely higher returns. For those willing to accept lower returns in exchange for guaranteed in-

vestment payments, Philip Ostle, senior consultant at MacIntyre Hudson Financial Services, might recommend with-profits bonds from insurance companies.

"They've suffered from a certain amount of bad press recently, but I still think they can be a good idea, provided you don't need the cash for at least five years."

People who need ready access to their cash would be better off putting their money in a building society account. Mr Ostle is also keen on zero

coupon preference shares in investment trusts for capital growth. They provide no income, but are low-risk investments, which have first call on funds if the trust goes bust.

For "high flyers wanting to reduce their tax bills", he is unwilling to dismiss Business Expansion Schemes, despite some criticism of these recently. They are due to be abolished next year, but there will be opportunities to invest in August, to take advantage of the ability to carry back tax liabilities to the previous year.

WILLS

IN THEORY, everyone makes a will as soon as they have assets to leave to their nearest and dearest. In practice, most people fight shy of doing so until middle age and the first intimations of mortality.

It is also a time when those who have already made a will consider revising it. A number of possible inheritors may have appeared at this stage, in the form of offspring from one or more marriages, nephews or nieces or even grandchildren.

Solicitors are a useful source of advice where affairs are in any way complicated. They may charge anything from £30 to £100. Legal aid may also be available.

Otherwise, making a will on a printed form, available from most stationers, may be adequate.

IT IS virtually impossible to generalise about the investment needs of people when they have reached early middle age, according to Mr Ostle.

"Their needs vary considerably, depending on a whole raft of factors. Parents with a growing family are normally planning for an entirely different future from the one envisaged by single people with only themselves to consider," he said.

Pensions is one area that parents tend to consider much later in life than their childless counterparts. Mr

Ostle said: "Most people have failed to put aside anything like enough to finance their pension needs by the time they reach 40, but parents don't normally put up the big money for pensions until the kids are off their hands."

However, this is the time for people without commitments to take advantage of pension plans as a way of reducing their tax bill. Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) to pensions start to become a factor, either via company schemes or, for those with personal pension plans, free-standing AVCs.

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MEDICAL INSURANCE

PRIVATE medical insurance is appealing to people in increasingly younger age groups, according to the British United Provident Association (Bupa). However, early middle age is still the time when most people not already in company schemes start to consider it seriously.

This happens for a number of reasons. First, many will

have growing families, which enables them to take advantage of cheaper rates. Second, incomes are generally higher. Third, it is the time when women especially may experience medical problems that could involve onerous National Health waiting lists.

Bupa claims that monthly premiums for this age group are not much more for 40-

year-olds than for people half their age. Single people of 24 pay between £27.78 and £58.10 a month, depending on levels of cover; 44-year-olds pay between £31.34 and £64.96. Married couples in their early forties pay between £60.12 and £124.46. Families with parents in the same age bracket pay between £75.14 and £155.54.

MORTGAGES

PEOPLE in early middle age are typically buying their second or third home. Parents usually find that a larger home, or a substantial extension to their existing one, becomes a priority as their children (and their friends) demand more space and privacy.

Childless couples and single people, whose incomes tend to be higher by the time they reach their late thirties, can now afford more expensive addresses, or to buy more than one home for country weekends or continental holidays.

This age group has largely escaped the "negative equity" problems currently besetting first-time buyers, who find themselves unable to move because the value of their homes has fallen below that of their mortgages.

Richard Bosson, chief economist at Abbey National, said: "A big area of growth in the late 1980s was remortgaging, or extending existing mortgages, to release capital to finance extensions, or even luxuries like a new boat. In addition, those who moved in 1988, '89 or '90 will have taken on significant top-up loans which could now mean a substantial erosion in equity. The people who have been really badly hit are the ones who used the money to set up their own business."

He said most people were unlikely to have extended their loans much beyond 60 or 70 per cent of the value of their homes, but "in some areas, the value of properties

has fallen by as much as 30 per cent, so there could still be problems there."

Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said people in their late thirties and forties will normally have existing endowment policies when they decide to move, or extend, their borrowings for home improvements.

"At this age, they are more financially aware, and they are happier to consider riskier products such as unit or investment-linked policies, or Peps. They are more into the concept of investment generally, because of experience with, say, school fees plans. Talking to them is, therefore, a lot easier. Younger people are normally unwilling to consider anything beyond endowment or repayment loans," he said.

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Interest rate move accelerates
decline in local council bonds

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

THE declining popularity of over-the-counter council bonds has persuaded some local authorities that they are no longer worth offering.

Fewer than 30 councils still offer local bonds for a minimum of £1,000 invested over a fixed term, but the interest rates they pay have dwindled from 14 per cent in their heyday to as little as 5 per cent. Some councils discourage new investments.

At one time, nearly 100 local authorities found local bonds were a cheap way to raise money for community projects. But as the number of investors began to fall, several councils decided the administrative costs outweighed the benefits of a shrinking pool of low-interest cash.

Many blame the unpopularity of council bonds on the abolition of the composite rate system from April 6 last year, which meant that interest on bank, building society and other deposits would be paid after deduction of tax.

Because non-taxpayers can still have the interest paid gross, most investors are elderly.

In Surrey, Elmbridge council pays only 5 per cent interest and is discouraging new investors.

Plymouth council, paying 6.25 per cent interest, says it is loathe to turn investors away, but discourages them by offering a low interest rate. Investment from bondholders has slumped from more than £1 million in recent years to £260,000 now.

A spokesman said: "We are reluctant to discontinue the bonds for two reasons. At some point they may be a useful way of raising a substantial sum of money, repaid at a lower interest rate than



NICK MALAND

the banks would require. Secondly, a number of local people feel they are helping their community by investing in it."

Lancashire county council no longer advertises its bonds, but has a 40 per cent renewal from people who have invested for years, even though the interest rate has dropped from 14 per cent in the early eighties to 9.5 per cent gross.

Some councils devised a way to hang on to investors' money by paying increased interest over longer periods. Cardiff council pays 9 per cent gross for new investments over four years, 9.33 per cent gross for money invested over five, six and seven years, and 9.61 per cent gross up to ten years. However, even Cardiff has seen investments decline from £1.1 mil-

lion two years ago to £757,000 since it began paying interest net.

A spokesman said: "Weighed against the administrative costs involved, the only benefit is the differential in the interest rates we offer and the one we would have to pay the bank or the Public

Works Loan Board. This is cheap money for us."

Councils agree that administration costs can make bonds unprofitable all round. Because it may cost 2 or 3 per cent to administer even a small amount, a council will have to pare the interest paid to the bondholder, making it

even more uncompetitive with what the building societies can offer.

But several councils are wary of scrapping them. At one time, local authorities were able to borrow generous sums from the Public Works Loan Board at a preferential rate of interest. However, the board has not only substantially cut quotas to fund local authority projects, but its increased interest rate makes loans more expensive to repay.

Plymouth, for example, says its quota to finance a capital programme has been cut by a couple of million pounds and the council may be forced to borrow on the market. "Bonds may be an attractive way to raise that money in the future," a spokesman said.

Bristol, which currently holds about £7 million in council bonds paying 9.75 per cent interest, will continue offering the bonds despite their waning popularity. "They would probably never be started up again once they were scrapped," a spokesman said.

"The opportunity would be forever lost to raise funds at a lower rate of interest, while borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board has become more expensive."

Tempting deals on offer

LENDERS are continuing to offer a range of fixed-rate loans at less than 10 per cent for up to five years to tempt borrowers back into the housing market before the summer holidays. Several have also introduced deals to encourage buyers into the market before stamp duty returns on August 19.

The Skipton Building Society has launched a limited offer fixed-rate mortgage for first-time buyers wanting to beat the stamp duty deadline. They will pay 8.99 per cent until September 30, 1993, followed by a further two years fixed at 9.99 per cent until September 30, 1995. The application fee is £50 and borrowers are not compelled to take out insurance with the society.

National & Provincial Building Society is waiving the £150 reservation fee it usually charges for first-time buyers on its guaranteed rates on all applications received before August 1. This is to help buyers wanting to complete purchases before August 19. Under the guarantee, rates for first-time buyers wanting to borrow up to £60,000 will pay 9.45 per cent until June 1, while those borrowing £60,000 or more will pay 9.25 per cent.

Two new rates from N&P fix payments at 9.85 per cent until June 1994, or 9.95 per cent until June 1995. The

society said that buying now to avoid stamp duty would save borrowers £480 on the first-time buyer's average purchase of £48,000.

Some mortgage brokers have dismissed the emphasis on stamp duty as "hype". Ian McKenna, of Blythe McKenna, the independent mortgage broker, said that the rise in mortgage indemnity premiums for buyers borrowing more than 75 per cent of the property's value would absorb any savings made on stamp duty. However, he said that any rate under 10 per cent fixed for three years or more was a good deal.

Blythe McKenna is offering a five-year capped rate of 9.99 per cent, which would allow people to benefit from further cuts in the base rate. There is an arrangement fee of £250 plus 1 per cent of the loan.

The rate is also being offered by John Charcol, the independent mortgage broker. Ian Darby, John Charcol's marketing manager, said buyers should take advantage of fixed rates of less than 10 per cent but look carefully at any conditions, such as compulsory insurance from lenders.

Commercial Union's new mortgage has a fixed rate of 8.5 per cent for the first year, rising to 9.5 per cent in the second year and 10.5 per cent in years three to five.

The loan uses funds from Citibank and includes two years' free unemployment cover. Buildings and contents insurance from Commercial Union is compulsory and there is an arrangement fee of £295.

The West Bromwich Building Society has a fixed rate of 9.6 per cent until September 1994. There is an application fee of £200 and borrowers have to arrange their buildings insurance through the society.

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For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 29).

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2	+8	+2	+8	+4	+5		
3	+5	+2	+3	+2	+5		
4	+3	+1	+1	+1	+1		
5	+5	+3	+4	+3	+3		
6	+8	+1	+5	+5	+1		
7	+2	+5	+7	+1	+1		
8	+5	+2	+2	+3	+1		
9	+6	+3	+4	+2	+4		
10	+2	+4	+7	+1	+3		
11	+3	+4	+7	+1	+1		
12	+6	+2	+3	+2	+3		
13	+1	+5	+9	+1	+1		
14	+7	+3	+8	+4	+1		
15	+4	+1	+2	+2	+2		
16	+4	+2	+4	+1	+3		
17	+5	+1	+2	+1	+1		
18	+6	+2	+5	+2	+5		
19	+8	+2	+8	+4	+1		
20	+8	+1	+3	+2	+1		
21	+5	+3	+4	+2	+4		
22	+8	+2	+4	+5	+1		
23	+3	+6	+7	+1	+2		
24	+7	+1	+4	+4	+1		
25	+4	+1	+2	+1	+1		
26	+6	+4	+8	+3	+5		
27	+2	+8	+8	+1	+1		
28	+7	+3	+6	+6	+1		
29	+3	+2	+2	+1	+2		
30	+8	+2	+5	+8	+2		
31	+5	+4	+8	+2	+4		
32	+8	+2	+4	+3	+2		
33	+1	+5	+6	+1	+1		
34	+3	+1	+2	+1	+1		
35	+6	+2	+3	+1	+1		
36	+2	+8	+8	+2	+1		
37	+8	+2	+8	+4	+1		
38	+2	+5	+7	+3	+1		
39	+5	+2	+8	+3	+4		
40	+2	+4	+7	+1	+1		
41	+4	+1	+1	+1	+1		
42	+6	+4	+4	+2	+3		
43	+1	+6	+7	+2	+1		
44	+8	+3	+8	+5	+2		

Disproving subsidence in homes should lower insurance premiums

From Mr Nigel Sherratt

Sir, Your article about the huge increases in house insurance premiums and excesses that many people are facing this year (Weekend Money, May 30), "Subsidence swells home costs", showed that claims for subsidence damage, caused by drying shrinkage of clay, are largely to blame.

The letter from Mr Henley, in last week's edition, gave a warning of the danger of losing cover by changing insurers in search of lower premiums.

Many houses in London and the South East are found-

ed on sand and gravel and so are not at risk from clay shrinkage.

Anybody who is fortunate enough to own one of these houses should be able to reduce their insurance premium with the help of a report from a structural engineer. The report would also be an asset when selling the house and would counteract the tendency among surveyors to see subsidence in every minor crack.

We gave advice recently on a Victorian house in Islington that a surveyor had described as uninsurable and unmortgageable because, in his opinion, based on some cracking and a tree in the back garden, there was subsidence damage caused by clay shrinkage. He did not bother to check the ground condition before giving this potentially disastrous opinion.

We were able to show, after a morning's work, that the foundations were on sand and gravel and that the cracks were normal for a house of that age.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SHERRATT,
Price & Myers,
Consulting Engineers,
2 Morwell Street,
WC1.



On the track of missing dividends

From P. J. Bishop

Sir, Mrs J. C. Dixon (June 13) is wise to keep track of her dividends. She may be interested in the saga of one of mine.

In 1988, having failed to receive one, I telephoned the registrar to ask why. I was told I had sold the shares and so was not entitled. A faxed copy of my share certificate cut no ice.

I telephoned a sympathetic man at the Stock Exchange who quite reasonably asked that I put the whole thing in

writing, which I did. I also made a statement to a member of the Fraud Squad. I never heard from either of them again.

My name was restored to the share register, and the dividend paid, only after I had taken the law into my own hands, an adventure which cost £1,500 before tax relief.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BISHOP,
Finndale House,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

Fees are lower

From Vivian Anthony

Sir, The report in the personal finance section on Saturday, June 13, may have given parents the wrong impression. It is certainly wise for parents to plan for school fees from as early a date as possible but the average day school fees which were quoted were far too high. Most of the major day schools, which account for well over half the pupils in HMC and GSA schools, have fees around £4,000 p.a. The average fees you quote (£7,035) no doubt relate to day pupils at mainly boarding schools. Moreover, while the average fee increase for 1991-92 was around 12 per cent, the increase this year will be nearer 7.5 per cent - close to the rate of increase in teachers' salaries. Independent schools are making strenuous efforts to hold down the rate of fee increases at this time of recession.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ANTHONY,
Secretary, HMC,
Headmasters' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.

□ The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

British company pension frozen after employee transferred to Paris

From Mrs S. Meade

Sir, My son worked for Reuters for more than 12 years, since leaving university, first in London and then as an expatriate in Germany. Last autumn he was moved at short notice to Paris, the alternative being redundancy.

Is this another case of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"?
Yours faithfully,
SHELAGH MEADE,
25 Rochester Square, NW1.

England his pension with Reuters UK has been frozen, and he has been obliged to take out a completely new pension with the French firm, and will be disadvantaged. Can you advise on any measures he should take?

Yours faithfully,
SHELAGH MEADE,
25 Rochester Square, NW1.

Reply by Touche Ross
There is probably very little Mr Meade can do in these cir-

cumstances. In financial terms, he seems to have two major problems: his net of tax income has been reduced by his transfer to France, and his accrued pension entitlement has been frozen.

It is very difficult to say without more information whether the tax treatment being applied in France is correct, but it is assumed here that it is.

Accordingly, there is probably little scope for improving his finances through tax planning off his own bat. Pre-

quently, multinational companies which move staff around the world operate schemes to protect their staff from differences in tax rates. Under one very common arrangement, the company works out what the employee's net of tax pay would have been in his home country and then adjusts his gross pay in the country in which he is working so that his net pay there is the same. If Reuters were operating such a scheme, Mr Meade would not have his present problem, so it appears to be a case of persuading them to start one. In the circumstances, one would have to say that he is not bargaining from a position of strength.

Again with his pension entitlement, he seems to have been presented with a *fait accompli* and there may be little he can do about it. Little information is given about the French pension arrangements other than that they will be inferior to his UK scheme. This is surprising, since pensions in Europe tend to be more generous than in the UK. It may be that he will become entitled to French state benefits in addition to a private pension.

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.55	2.98	2.12	telephone	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
1 month	6.54	6.54	6.47	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-428 1587
3 months	6.75	6.75	6.40	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-428 1587
6 months	6.96	6.96	6.47	2,500-no max	6 mth 071-428 1587
1 year	7.17	7.17	6.58	2,500-no max	1 year 071-428 1587
2 years	7.38	7.38	6.60	10,000-no max	2 years 071-428 1587
3 years	7.59	7.59	6.62	10,000-24,000	3 years 071-428 1587
4 years	7.80	7.80	6.64	10,000-24,000	4 years 071-428 1587
5 years	8.01	8.01	6.66	10,000-24,000	5 years 071-428 1587

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland	6.45	6.45	5.34	2,500	none 051-442 7777
Barclays	5.75	5.75	4.75	2,500	none 0604 232881
Co-operative	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071 628 9543
First Direct	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071 628 9543
London & Lancashire	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 0272 433272
Midland	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071-725 1050
Norfolk & Norwich	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071-725 1050
Paragon	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071-725 1050
Yorkshire	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071-725 1050

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share	2.63	2.65	2.10	25+ min	none
Fixed Term					
1 month	7.20	7.20	5.75	1,000 min	Postcode
3 months	7.30	7.30	5.82	1,000 min	Postcode
6 months	7.40	7.40	5.89	1,000 min	Postcode
1 year	7.50	7.50	5.96	1,000 min	Postcode
2 years	7.60	7.60	6.03	1,000 min	Postcode
3 years	7.70	7.70	6.10	1,000 min	Postcode
4 years	7.80	7.80	6.17	1,000 min	Postcode
5 years	7.90	7.90	6.24	1,000 min	Postcode
6 years	8.00	8.00	6.31	1,000 min	Postcode
7 years	8.10	8.10	6.38	1,000 min	Postcode
8 years	8.20	8.20	6.45	1,000 min	Postcode
9 years	8.30	8.30	6.52	1,000 min	Postcode
10 years	8.40	8.40	6.59	1,000 min	Postcode

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	5.50	6.25	3.50	5-25,000	1 mth 041-648-4555
Income Bond	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 0253 88151
Deposit Bond	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
30% Income Bond	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
Open End Water	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	6.25	6.54	3.55	2,000-50,000	3 mth 041-648-4555

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Prosperity	8.50	8.50	7.10	35,000 min	1 yrs Figure from
Liberty	8.50	8.50	7.10	35,000 min	1 yrs Figure from
Liberty	8.50	8.50	7.10	35,000 min	1 yrs Figure from
Liberty	8.50	8.50	7.10	35,000 min	1 yrs Figure from
Liberty	8.50	8.50	7.10	35,000 min	1 yrs Figure from

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
COMPILED BY KAREN BUCKLEY					
NP (May 91-92)	4.5%				
Bank Rate	10%				
Personal Loan	9.5%				
Credit Card	18.5-20%				

	Interest rate	Compounded at 25% 40%	Investment £	Notes	Current
LARGER LOANS					
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Building Society	7.50	7.50	6.00K	80	After 2% discount for 8 months
Building Society	8.24	8.24	10.00K	90	After 2% discount for 9 months
Building Society	8.70	8.70	25-100K	90	After 2% discount for 1 year
BANKS					
Abbey National	1.50	1.50	100K+	90	Standard
BANKS					
Royal Bank of Scot.	9.70	9.70	50K+	90	After 1% discount for 1 year

THE CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

A New Private Client-Style Investment from Save & Prosper

Save & Prosper's new Capital Portfolio has at its core an investment concept that has already proved successful. It is the same concept that stockbrokers have provided for their private clients for years. That of simply concentrating on a small number of well known quality shares encompassing a broad enough range of investments to ensure a good spread of risk. In addition, Capital Portfolio gives you the opportunity to talk to the Investment Adviser at an annual investment forum.

An investment concept that works
Perhaps more importantly the private client division of Flemings, Save & Prosper's parent company, has already successfully offered this concept into other investment areas to a wide range of investors. For example, our PEP Managed Portfolio has consistently been one of the top performing PEPs of its type.

"Concentrates the portfolio and you concentrate the mind."

Andrew Hall, Managing Director
Planning Private Asset Management
and investment adviser to the Fund.

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Capital Portfolio is a UK authorised unit trust that offers you the opportunity to invest in a concentrated portfolio of blue-chip UK shares.

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CAPITAL
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*Source: The WM Company.

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THE M&G GROUP

Portfolio

From our Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1 Yorkshire W	Building	1.00
2 Persimmon	Building	1.00
3 First Tech	Electrical	1.00
4 Nat West	Banking	1.00
5 Airfrank Ltd	Aviation	1.00
6 Bulmer (H) P	Breweries	1.00
7 Kungheer	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
8 Sema Gp	Electrical	1.00
9 Weir	Industrial	1.00
10 MEPC	Property	1.00
11 Color Gp	Oil/Gas	1.00
12 Euronext Ltd	Transport	1.00
13 Delta	Electrical	1.00
14 Ryl Bk Sot	Banking	1.00
15 Lloyd	Banking	1.00
16 Farrel Elec	Electrical	1.00
17 Gevee	Industrial	1.00
18 Black	Electrical	1.00
19 Hens	Electrical	1.00
20 Electromotors	Electrical	1.00
21 Northumbria	Electrical	1.00
22 Smith (J) P	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
23 Courtauld Text	Textiles	1.00
24 ERA Gp	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
25 Harn Croft	Industrial	1.00
26 Courtauld	Textiles	1.00
27 Sopa	Textiles	1.00
28 Leads	Textiles	1.00
29 Land Sec	Property	1.00
30 Airways	Transport	1.00
31 Regal Group	Building	1.00
32 Yorkshire TV	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
33 Hagg Ratan	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
34 Baxters	Food	1.00
35 Wapac	Banking	1.00
36 Hailall	Property	1.00
37 Porosund	Newspaper	1.00
38 Transport	Transport	1.00
39 Marks Spence	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
40 Wimpey G	Building	1.00
41 De La Rue	Industrial	1.00
42 Remick	Chemicals	1.00
43 Scot & New	Banking	1.00
44 EIT Gp	Industrial	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of 14,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUNDAY

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Margaret Barton, of Reading.

High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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Shares partly recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 15. Dealings end June 26. Contango day June 29. Settlement day July 6. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

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Portfolio

WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +167 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

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1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

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Figure 1 is a line graph with the X-axis labeled 'Number of days of rain' and the Y-axis labeled 'Number of days of sunshine'. The X-axis has major tick marks at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. The Y-axis has major tick marks at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. A straight line is drawn from the point (0, 10) to the point (10, 0). The line has a negative slope, indicating that as the number of rainy days increases, the number of sunny days decreases.

Bid				Offer			
East End	127.00	127.00	-	127.00	127.00	-	127.00
Lampson Ltd	60.11	60.20	-	112	112	-	112
UK Cable	60.11	60.20	-	112	112	-	112
UK Cable	60.11	60.20	-	112	112	-	112
Japan Cable	122.27	122.54	-	5.74	5.74	-	5.74

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Waltham Ltd 21 Duke Street, London			
LCN Midland Ltd 21 Duke Street, London			
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

SAVE-A-PROSPER GROUP			
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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT			
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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD			
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High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

SCOTTISH TOUCHER REIMAN			
11000 High Street, London EC1A 3JL			
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
High Finance	101.10	101.10	-
East End	212.00	212.00	-

MONEY MARKETS			
Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.0			
(rate's range 93.0-93.1)			

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
Mid Rates for June 19			
Amsterdam	3,200.25-3,205.00		
Brussels	3,200.25-3,205.00		
Frankfurt	3,200.25-3,205.00		
London	3,200.25-3,205.00		
Paris	3,200.25-3,205.00		
Stockholm	3,200.25-3,205.00		
Zurich	3,200.25-3,205.00		

OTHER STERLING RATES			
Argentina peso	1,879.1-8,408		
Bahama dollar	2,845.5-2,879		
Bahrain dinar	0.698-0.701		
Brazil cruzeiro	594.36-594.95		
British pound	1.000-1.000		
Denmark krone	7.4625-7.4625		
Greece drachma	354.77-359.23		
Hong Kong dollar	7.75-7.75		
India rupee	25.32-25.34		
Kuwait dinar K.D.	0.537-0.544		
Malaysian dollar	2.33-2.33		
Mexico peso	57.50-57.50		
New Zealand dollar	3.3093-3.3093		
Singapore dollar	3.0117-3.0117		
S.Africa rand (fm)	6.6507-6.7753		
S.Africa rand (cm)	5.5000-5.5000		
U.S. dollar	0.6252-0.6252		
U.S. dollar	0.6252-0.6252		

MONEY RATES (%)			
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SATURDAY JUNE 20 1992

Test sponsors sign up for two more years

Salisbury gives England a new dimension

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (second day of five): Pakistan, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 132 runs behind England

GIVEN the state of this game and the state of the economy, it is arguable whether the best news for English cricket yesterday was the rainfall which postponed their suffering against Pakistan's batsmen or the windfall which guarantees more than £3 million over the next two years.

The rain came as a deluge, leaving Lord's a lake and, not for the first time in recent years of this game, sending a full-house Friday crowd home early and frustrated.

The morning, with strokeplay and leg spin to savour, had whetted appetites but the lunch parties were drenched and a dreary afternoon brought inevitable abandonment at 4.30.

By that time, however, the game's accountants were quietly raising a glass of bubbly, following the announcement by Cornhill Insurance that they will continue to sponsor English Test cricket at least until the end of the 1994 season.

Cornhill's sponsorship dates back to 1977 when, as Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said yesterday: "People were not exactly queuing up to give us mon-

ey." Recruited to nourish a game ravaged and looted by Kerry Packer, Cornhill achieved their own benefits through a new household awareness.

In 15 years they have invested £9 million. The new deal, representing an increase of almost 50 per cent, involves £3.2 million over two years and removes the fear that Cornhill would withdraw due to dissatisfaction over their profile on Test grounds and a perceived conflict with Tesley Bitter, who sponsor the England team.

From next year, the Cornhill logo will appear on the outfield at all Test grounds, even Lord's, who have thus far resisted. If this was a persuasive factor, the relatively short extension of Cornhill's contract reflects their concern over television coverage.

Cornhill would have ended their sponsorship before now if the exclusive rights to Test cricket had gone to satellite television and they will doubtless threaten to do so if BBC lose out to Sky when, in 1994, a new TV deal must be negotiated.

For much of yesterday, BBC's cameras were shrouded in green tarpaulins but, for the two hours when they were operative, the cricket made compulsive viewing.

Pakistan lost only one wicket in adding 92 runs, 63 of

them scored by Aamir Sohail, who can never do other than entertain.

Sohail has no interest in batting to survive. He plays with a joyful flourish, giving the bowler a chance but, when the force is with him, offering a vivid and uninhibited range of strokes.

He will always need his luck and he had some yesterday. To his first ball of the morning, an offside looper from DeFreitas, he launched an outrageous curve and missed. Soon, however, he was driving on the up against the seam bowlers, unerringly locating the gaps in Gooch's packed offside field.

Malcolm, significantly, was not risked at the start of the day. His three overs on Thursday evening had brought Pakistan 20 runs and Gooch held him back until, resting DeFreitas after an hour, he unleashed him downwind from the Nursery end. If his was an improved effort, it was a relative matter; too much was still culpably loose and four overs produced another 21 runs.

Botham was not used, though apparently he was fit to bowl despite slipping painfully in the showers the previous evening. Lewis, however, was impressive in his initial burst from the pavilion end and the ball with which he bowled Ramiz Raja was a beauty, cutting back sharply between bat and pad.

One ball from DeFreitas to Mujtaba took off alarmingly from a good length, which is not good news for England's second innings, but if this brought a sharp intake of breath from the crowd, their rapture was reserved for the appearance of Ian Salisbury.

Brought on 40 minutes before lunch, the Sussex leg spinner bowled five overs for 16. More importantly, he unnerved Sohail, who almost played on to Salisbury's third ball, edged his sixth and then gave a technical chance to Russell as he misread a googly in the next over.

Almost 30,000 people loved it, giving the young man a warm reception. After 21 years of abstinence, this was a brief and tentative fling for English leg spin but it was, without doubt, a promising one.

John Woodcock, page 34
Photograph, page 34



Finishing touch: Morgan takes the first-round lead with a birdie at the last

FIRST ROUND SCORES

US unless stated
68: G Morgan
67: C Strange
66: P Mickelson, S Pate, A Dillard
65: T Lehman
70: J Hogg, M McCumber, T Purzner, J D Blake, W Wood, C Montgomerie (GB), N Faldo (GB), M Calcavecchia, M Brooks, P Asinger
71: T Schultz, R Rafferty (GB), G Hallberg, R Mediate, C Stadler, N Price (Zim), B Bryant, S Ballesteros (Sp), A Forsbrand (Swe), T Kite, J Gallagher Jr, S Dunlap
72: R Zokol (Can), T Sleskemann, B Andrade, C Black, R Floyd, L Wadkins, D Love II, C Rymmer, B Eates, D Waldorf, G Twigg, D Foreman, F Funk, J Cook, F Cougle, J Wooten (GB), J Flannery
73: D Hammond, C Perry (Aus), D

Phuitt, A Lyle (GB), R Cochran, F Zoeller, J Surman, P Stewart, B Gilder, J Delang, P Blackmar, O McQuinn, B Langer (Ger), J M Olazabal (Sp), R Davis (Aus), K Triplett, H Irwin, D Donovon, J Kane
74: J McGovern, J Anderson (Can), P Jacobson, M McQuitty (Zim), M Hubbert, C Faven, J Swedler, S McIntee, W Grady (Aus), J Baker-Finch (Aus), T Tymor, M Smith, B Mayfield, J Daly, J Hayes, M Buckley, F Quinn
75: R Dalpos, S Hoch, R Matthe, D Halderson (Can), E Romero (Arg), D Feherty (GB), S Elkington (Aus), G Koch, T Jenkins, M Walton, F Espinoza Jr, B Faxon, S Gump, N Henke, T Watson, T Conley, J Zander, B Burns, D White
76: B Wolcott, G Hickman, R

McGowan, D A Welton, D Duvall, B Lyle, B Gorman, S Kendall, R Fehr, D Hart, K Green, D Pooley, M Herwood (Aus), S Simpson, L Mize, L Jazzan, M Swartz
77: M Reid, L Ten Brook, A Magee, L Nelson, B Clear, S Upper, C Bowles, S Chambers, J Ouzie (Jap), A North, J Nicklaus, W Schutte, R Huxtable
78: J Hart, B R Brown, M Voge, J Adams, S Richardson, F Dobbs, D Berry, S Gotsche
79: B Norton, C Hargate, P Burke, J Jobe, R Parlier
80: R Thompson, T Stankowski, J Empey, G Farrow
81: W Heintzelman, M Gilmore Jr, D Cozzani, H Clark (GB), J Johnston
82: M Gogel, D Frye
83: D Watson (Zim)
84: M Davis
87: M Davis
* denotes amateur

Faldo squeezed as American grip tightens

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEREY

NICK Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros were desperately searching for inspiration as the Americans threatened to dominate the 92nd US Open in the second round here at Pebble Beach yesterday.

Faldo looked tense as he scrambled pars at each of the first four holes and Ballesteros showed his frustration by angrily kicking the sand in a bunker at the 2nd, where he took six.

For the second successive day Faldo failed to take advantage of the opening stretch, which is considered to be the place to put a few birdies in the bank before the course shows its teeth from the 8th onwards.

What is more, Faldo, partnered by Mark Calcavecchia and Ballesteros, was our early when the conditions were much the same as on the first day. There was the suggestion of a breeze, although the course was still vulnerable.

Gil Morgan followed his opening 66, with which he led by one stroke from Curtis Strange, with a birdie at the 1st, as he attempted to reach ten under par at any stage of a US Open. He got to nine under with birdies at 6th and 7th, but dropped shots at each of the next two holes to be out in 35.

Calcavecchia had momentarily joined Morgan in the lead as he showed Faldo and Ballesteros the way with an eagle at the 2nd, where he holed from 14 feet after getting home with two woods, and three birdies in succession from the 4th.

Meanwhile Ballesteros, who scored 71 to Faldo's 70 on Thursday, transformed his mood by holing a chip of 28 feet at the 3rd. He was also favoured by fortune at the 4th, where the ball kicked forward to within six feet of the cup, from where he holed. The Spaniard did wonderfully well to make a par at the 5th, coaxing a curling putt of 50 feet to within three inches of the hole, but he was less fortunate at the next short hole, the 7th, where he dropped a shot.

Ballesteros, Calcavecchia and Faldo, all Open champions, all missed the green at the 7th. Calcavecchia, like Ballesteros, dropped a shot, but Faldo flopped his recovery from out of the ankle-deep rough to six feet, from where he made his three.

Faldo's putter had rescued him at the 1st and 2nd, where he holed from five feet and four feet respectively for

pars. Faldo missed the green at each of the next two holes, salvaging pars on both occasions, before he made a two at the 5th from six feet, but he took six at the 9th, turned in 37 and needed a birdie at the 10th to return to two under. Ballesteros, out in 37, was in deep trouble as he dropped shots at the 10th, 11th and 12th holes.

Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, made a fine start, gathering four birdies in his first seven holes and, out in 33, he was four under for the championship before he dropped shots at the 12th and 13th. Colin Montgomerie, who scored 70 in the first round, hit a lovely tee-shot to two feet at the 5th and followed with another birdie at the next. But he dropped shots at the 7th and 8th to be out in 36.

Bernhard Langer progressed with four birdies in his first seven holes, but he dropped shots at the 8th and 9th. Howard Clark easily missed the halfway cut, scoring 79 for a total of 160 and Jose-Maria Olazabal, out in 38, and Steven Richardson, were struggling to survive. Ian Woosnam moved to one under with an outward half of 35.

Strange was among the late starters, along with Phil Mickelson, Steve Pate and Andy Dillard, all of whom scored 68. Strange had six birdies in seven holes from the 7th, struggled over the closing stretch but said he was delighted with the U-turn in his fortunes. He has not won since successfully defending the US Open in 1989.

He said: "The whole thing is upstairs in my head. I need to be motivated and nothing motivates me like the US Open. When I'm not motivated then I'm a very average player. I need to be thinking right because I rely heavily on grinding and enthusiasm."

Mickelson, the former US Amateur champion, began his career as a professional with a birdie at the first hole. "I'll be able to look back on that in 20 or 30 years time," he said.

More golf, page 35

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings: 255 (A J Stewart 74, G A Gooch 89; Waqar Younis five for 81)

PAKISTAN: First Innings

	73	66	49	11	11	152	108
Aamir Sohail not out							
Ramiz Raja b Lewis	24	0	5	53	36		
Ash Mujtaba not out	22	0	4	97	60		
Extras (lb 1, nb 3)						4	
Total (1 wk, 182 min, 33 overs)						123	

FALL OF WICKETS: Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Wasim Akram, (Moin Khan, Mushaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Aqib Javed to bat).

FIELDING: Mickelson, 1-43 (Sohail 16).

BOWLING: DeFreitas 10-3-36-0 (nb3) (one spell); Malcolm 7-0-41-0 (3-0-30-0, 4-0-21-0), Lewis 11-5-29-1 (nb1) (3-2-25-1 3-2-4-0); Salisbury 5-0-16-0 (one spell).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: close 31-0 (Sohail 10, Ramiz 20), seven overs. Second day: 50 in 67 min, 14.3 overs. 100 in 118 min, 26 overs. Lunch: 123-1 (Sohail 74, Mujtaba 22), 33 overs. Rain during and after lunch prevented restart; play abandoned at 4.30 pm.

Umpires: B Duffell and J H Hampshire.

PREVIOUS TEST: Edgbaston (June 4 to 9); Match drawn.

TESTS TO COME: Third Test: Old Trafford (July 2 to 7). Fourth Test: Headingley (July 23 to 27). Fifth Test: The Oval (August 6 to 10).

TODAY'S WEATHER: Dry, sunny periods developing, warm; maximum temperature 19°C.

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

The best service at Wimbledon opens with a 16-page colour guide to the championships.

Monica Seles, the dominant force in women's tennis, and Andre Agassi, the most fashionable of the men, are featured while *The Times* also takes readers behind the scenes at the centre court for a champion's view.

For the full draw and guide to the seeds, make sure *The Times*, the best for tennis.

IAAF ruling favours Black

ROGER Black, the British hope for an Olympic athletics gold medal at 400 metres, could lose most of his main opposition even before the Games begin after a United States court yesterday cleared Butch Reynolds, the world record holder, to compete today in the US Olympic trials in New Orleans (David Powell writes).

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) last night confirmed its hardline stance that any athlete competing against Reynolds, who is suspended for a drugs violation, could also be banned. "This might lead to

the suspension of all US 400 metres runners at the Olympic Games," Isvan Gyulai, the secretary of the IAAF, said. "The IAAF sees it as challenging the rule of an international sports body and that may lead to chaos."

Reynolds is protesting his innocence and a US court in Columbus, Ohio, extended his temporary restraining order which has allowed him to compete four times this season. The order also restrained US and international associations from stopping those athletes who compete against Reynolds from competing in the Olympics.

While Black took the silver medal at the world championships last year, Americans took the gold and bronze. He has the seventh fastest time in the world this year; only Americans are ahead of him.

After Reynolds competed in San Francisco two weeks ago, the IAAF interpreted its "contamination" rule beyond Reynolds's own event. It suspended all athletes in the meeting, although it subsequently suspended only those who competed in the 400 metres. By the original interpretation, the entire US Olympic team would have been in jeopardy.

ICC on a sticky wicket

SPORT is ever a continuation of politics by other means: this is as true on the innocent fields of minor cricket as it is at the Olympic stadium. Next month, Spain will seek membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) — a charming prospect, matadors bowling leg spin and all that. But, inevitably, a wave of apprehension sweeps over Gibraltar.

Gibraltar (five cricket grounds in three square miles of rock) are associate, or second division, members of the ICC. They play in the ICC Trophy or Little World Cup, and won three matches in the tournament in 1990. Spain are asking for admission at the third-division level of affiliate membership; Test countries count as full members.

The Spain-Gibraltar feud has long been expressed in sport. Spain have opposed Gibraltar's attempt to win membership of the International Olympic Committee and Fifa, football's international governing body.

This is a matter of policy: a directive from the Spanish foreign ministry to the Superior Council for Sports reads, in part, on the subject of competition on Spanish soil: "We are not able to accept under any circumstances the participation of a selection representing Gibraltar as this would mean granting them the status similar to an independent

state. Even if Gibraltar was a member of the corresponding international federation (a circumstance which Spain must always oppose), we cannot accept their participation in championships that are held on our territory." My italics. Lord's, as ever, lives in interesting times.

Paper talk

A FEW years ago, my tabloid colleagues consistently referred to the then Wimbledon champion as "Bonking Boris Becker". This is a phrase that has

always troubled me. Now, at last, I have an explanation. It comes from a magazine called *Lawn Tennis and Badminton*, published on September 5, 1925. I quote: "One has often heard a player, on winning the toss, express his intention of serving by announcing 'I'll deal' or 'I'll bang'. A successful tosser has even announced 'We will push the ball'. But surely the limit in originality is that of the lady who brought out 'I'll bonk'."

Now I see it all. Our sister paper was offering a subtle if archaic compliment to Becker's service.

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Monster bet

WILLIAM Hill, the bookies, is offering 1,000-1 about any named British tennis player winning either the men's or women's singles at Wimbledon. This, they tell me with glee, is four times the odds offered against the arrival of UFOs. The odds of discovering the Loch Ness monster, and the same odds as the Archbishop of Canterbury confirming the Second Coming.

Phoney advice

THE myth of inside knowledge is one of the most powerful forces in racing. Everyone who has ever placed a bet knows the thrill of the whisper, "the trainer's got a bit on". How do you learn these elusive secrets? One way is to ring one of those telephone tipsters: The Edge, The Professional, The Turfmaster. The Whisper Line, Each Way Jobs and the irresistible Mr Shrewdie. A new publication called *What Tipster?* has compiled a league table of these passers-on of golden knowledge, acquired at a cost. It is claimed, of £1,000 a month on phone calls alone. Its findings? Only three tipsters are in profit of £10 or more to a level £1 stake, and only six out of 21 are in profit at all. Next month, the publication will compare the telephonic insiders with the national press: our Mandarin and Thunderer can consider themselves forewarned.

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